Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 32, Issue 7
JULY / AUGUST 2024

Carpe Preakness

Seize the Grey grabs another classic for Hall of Famer Lukas

Country Life Breeding Partnerships:
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Jim McCue

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No Maryland operation works harder to bring new owners into the sport, or to retain existing owners, than Country Life. When 10 partners leapt for joy watching a colt they foaled here at Country Life, FULMINEO, win the $100,000 James W. Murphy Stakes at Pimlico (left) on Preakness Day, their participation in a Country Life Breeding Partnership provided an emotional and economic thrill.

Their mare, Starr of Quality, is the dam of last summer's $775,000 Gun Runner yearling filly at Saratoga. This spring, the mare foaled a colt by Gun Runner's son Cyberknife – for another Maryland-bred in the pipeline for 2025.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Seize the Grey prevails in historic Preakness

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas won his seventh Preakness with upstart Seize the Grey, whose breeder Audie Otto enjoyed the moment while thinking about her family. By Joe Clancy. Page 18

Preakness Undercard: Maryland-bred leads charge

Maryland-bred Fulmineo came through in the James W. Murphy Stakes on the Preakness Day undercard, that also featured a Sir Barton Stakes score for Corporate Power and more. By Tom Law and Joe Clancy. Page 25

Gun Song hits mark in Black-Eyed Susan

Long a team, owner Lee Lewis and trainer Mark Hennig found a major win with Gun Song in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes. Cherie DeVaux won three stakes including the Pimlico Special with Pyrennes to grab the trainers' bonus. By Tom Law and Joe Clancy. Page 28

Region shines at Belmont Stakes Festival

The Belmont went to Saratoga, with Mid-Atlantic flavor. New Jersey-bred Book'em Danno won the Woody Stephens; Maryland-bred Mindframe nearly captured the Belmont; Maryland-bred Future Is Now landed the Intercontinental. By Tom Law. Page 36

Strong showing at Fasig-Tipton May sale, again

Winchell Thoroughbreds bought the sales-topping Bolt d'Oro filly at $1.25 million, the May sale's 10th consecutive seven-figure leader. By Joe Clancy. Page 40

On our cover: Seize the Grey gets a pat from Jaime Torres, and an escort from outrider Kaymarie Kreidel, after winning the Preakness Stakes May 18. Kreidel's mount, Witch Hunter, was injured in a trailer accident Preakness night but is on the road to recovery. *Photo by Johnny Voodoo/Eclipse Sportswire.*

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RACING AT THE BIG T

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$75,000 JAMEELA 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs, Turf

July 21

$75,000 MISS DISCO 3YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

August 18

$75,000 ALL BRANDY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

$75,000 FIND 3YO & Up, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
lwilliams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: John Piassek
jpiassek@marylandthoroughbred.com

Contributors:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Lexi Danielson lexi@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

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MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB
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SUN / JUL 14

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$100,000 GUARANTEED
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Three Year Olds & Upward

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THE BEN'S CAT STAKES (REGISTERED MD BRED / MD SIRED)
Three Year Olds & Upward

$75,000 GUARANTEED
THE JAMEELA STAKES (REGISTERED MD BRED / MD SIRED)
Fillies & Mares - Three Years Old & Upward

SUN / JUL 21

2 STAKES RACES WITH **$175,000** IN PURSES

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE BIG DREYFUS STAKES
Fillies & Mares - Three Years Old & Upward

$75,000 GUARANTEED
THE MISS DISCO STAKES (REGISTERED MD BRED / MD SIRED)
Fillies - Three Years Old

SUN / JUL 28

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$150,000 GUARANTEED
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Post Time

ONE MORE TIME. Frankie Dettori adds Penn National to his flying dismount racetracks after First World War's victory in the Grade 3 Penn Mile Stakes May 31. Trained by Brendan Walsh for Qatar Racing and Hunter Valley Farm, the 3-year-old won a three-way photo with Aspenite and Trikari. It was Dettori's second stakes win – and flying dismount – of the evening.

Scott Serio/Eclipse Sportswire

4
FIRST WORLD WAR

Say It Again

"He's just Phil Bloodstock Agent in my phone."
Owner Lee Lewis, who won the Black-Eyed Susan with Gun Song, when asked how to spell bloodstock agent Phil Hager's last name by a reporter

"I'll buy one like that once in a while."
Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Kenny McPeek, about yearling purchase Hard Strike (a three-time winner over timber this year)

"People think they eat oats and hay, but they actually eat money. I feed them through online banking. I feed them right at my desk."
Owner/breeder Mark Grier, about horses

"Everybody gets up at 4 a.m. seven days a week and works their tails off and small barns work even harder. To be able to be here and represent the small barns means a lot to me."
Trainer Jeff Engler, about running Mugatu (a son of Maryland stallion Blofeld) in the Preakness

"I'm pretty sure no one would know how to get a hold of me. But clearly, that mare is going nowhere."
Breeder Audie Otto, about fielding calls about selling Smart Shopping, dam of Preakness winner Seize the Grey

"It's my first time at the Preakness. I'm not coming back."
Price Bell, after Seize the Grey – foaled at his family's Mill Ridge Farm in Kentucky – won the Preakness

"This is probably Bill Gates, so I maybe should take it."
Trainer D. Wayne Lukas as his flip phone rang in the middle of the Preakness press conference

"There are racehorses behind this fence."
Creative marketing sign for the White Pine Thoroughbreds consignment at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic

Go Figure

32 Top-three finishes in 58 starts for Smooth B, after the Pennsylvania-bred finished third in Pimlico's Jim McKay Turf Sprint May 18. The 9-year-old began his racing career in 2017 and has made at least six starts in each campaign through 2023 while earning $828,667 through June 15.

28.4 Million dollars bet on the 2024 Black-Eyed Susan Day card at Pimlico Race Course May 17. Released by the Maryland Jockey Club, the figure eclipsed the mark of $28.2 million set in 2023.

99.64 Million dollars bet on the 2024 Preakness Day card at Pimlico May 18, according to figures compiled by the *Daily Racing Form*. The figure decreased slightly from 2023, but was fueled by a $3.8 million year-over-year increase on wagers on the Preakness Stakes itself, which reached $57.93 million including all multi-race bets ending in the Preakness.

1 Guy in an Ozzie Guillen Chicago White Sox jersey at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale.

Go Figure

2 Haint Blues running in the region. One, a South Carolina-bred owned and trained by Hammy Smith, won on the dirt at Laurel Park April 26. Another, bred in France, won over hurdles in March for owner/breeder Layton Register and trainer Kate Dalton. Thankfully for race-callers, the 4-year-old fillies have not been in the same race, though they did race within two days of each other at Laurel last year. Haint Blue (Fr) won on the turf Oct. 13. Haint Blue finished fifth Oct. 15.

2,600 More actually, but that's the round number of horses saved by Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue since its creation in 2002. MAHR buys ex-racehorses bound for slaughter and, after quarantine and careful evaluation, adopts them into homes as pleasure and sport horses.

217.10 Payoff for a $1 exacta when Desvio edged St. John's – trained by locals Madison Meyers and Jack Fisher – in the second race on Preakness Day at Pimlico.

Milestones

Established:

New standards for wagering and speed, on the evening of May 31 at Penn National. Qatar Racing and Hunter Valley Farm's First World War, trained by Brendan Walsh and ridden by Frankie Dettori, won the 11th Penn Mile-G3 for 3-year-olds by a nose in a three-horse photo finish with Aspenite and Trikari. The final time of 1:33.50 was the fastest in Penn Mile history and .38 seconds off the course record 1:33.12 set by Thunder Brew in 2010. One race earlier Dettori guided Poolside With Slim (Ire) to victory in the $150,000 Penn Oaks, his only other ride on the card. It was the first stakes win in five starts for the Rusty Arnold-trained filly owned by Glenn Bromagen II, Patrick Lewis and Sandra Bromagen. The winning time of 1:33.59 was the fastest in 10 editions of the Penn Oaks. For the third consecutive year the night set a wagering record, with $5,772,383 wagered on the 11-race card, an increase of 26 percent (more than $1.2 million) from last year. Wagering on the Penn Mile itself was $1,301,374, also a record. "This evening was a tremendous moment in the 52-year history of Penn National," said director of racing operations Eric Johnston. "The all-time handle record was shattered, we had great representation from local and national horsemen, and to top it off one of racing's all-time iconic jockeys wins the two big stakes, making it a memorable evening for all who attended."

Presented:

To Peter Fenwick, the S. Bryce Wing Award for outstanding contribution to Maryland timber racing. Fenwick volunteered as race secretary of the Grand National Steeplechase for more than 20 years. During his tenure, the Grand National provided opportunities for juniors, some of whom are National Steeplechase Association licensed riders today. Associated with the Maryland Hunt Cup since birth, as his father Charles

Names of the Month

Cobblestone Bridge. Stuart Janney III's 3-year-old colt, fifth at Pimlico on Black-Eyed Susan Day, is out of Carriage Trail.

Border War. Joe Allen's 5-year-old, one spot ahead of Cobblestone Bridge in that race, is by War Front out of Homebound.

Polar Bear Plunge. Another from that field, the 3-year-old gelding is by English Channel out of Let It Snow.

Milestones

Fenwick Sr. was race secretary, Fenwick's first job for the race was as a T-shirt vendor as a teenager. In 1990, he became a paddock judge, a role he continues to this day. In 2003, he joined the Hunt Cup Committee and has been an active member and thoughtful sounding board. He also has served on the NSA and Maryland Steeplechase Association boards and is a strong advocate and positive liaison for amateur racing. The award's namesake was a member of the Maryland Hunt Cup Association from 1939 until his death at age 85 in 1975, secretary for a decade, and president of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association (now the National Steeplechase Association) from 1948 to 1964.

Relaunched:

As Inglis Digital USA, the Wanamaker's online sales platform, after Australia's William Inglis and Son Ltd. purchased a majority share in the company. Created in June 2020, Wanamaker's conducts monthly auctions of horses of all ages and has sold such horses as stakes winner Fiya ($400,000) and Bandonarun ($330,000). Wanamaker's has also conducted state-bred specific auctions in conjunction with organizations in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Liza Hendriks, co-founder of Wanamaker's, will remain with the company as CEO of Inglis Digital USA, based in Lexington, Ky. She will be joined by senior director of sales and recruitment Kyle Wilson, formerly assistant director of sales development with Keeneland. Kelly Brophey, owner of Clarity Bloodstock, will serve as director of sales operations. Inglis, Australia's largest and longest-running Thoroughbred auction company, has hosted online sales for seven years with an average of 300 horses offered every two weeks.

Hosted:

More than 100 guests for its first Soiree for Safety event at Fair Hill Training Center, the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation, May 24. The event featured a presentation from TERF board member and New York Racing Association equine medical director Dr. Scott Palmer and raised money for the organization's mission of supporting scholarships, educational programs and research to make racing safer. Since 2010, TERF has built an endowment of more than $2.5 million and made grants in excess of $1 million.

Approved:

By the Federal Trade Commission, changes to several rules enforced by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority. Chief among them is an increase in the stand-down time for fetlock corticosteroid injections to 14 days before working and 30 days before racing. The new rules also provide a second waiver claiming option, where a horse returning from a layoff may make two starts with the claiming price waived (if meeting several conditions); an updated void claim rule involving a positive test from a race in which a horse was claimed; and post-workout blood test requirements for certain horses. In addition, registration rules were updated: any entity owning a covered horse must register with HISA, as must any veterinarian who provides veterinary services to a covered horse. In addition, a covered horse's location must be updated within 24 hours and equine fatalities must be reported within 72 hours. For more, see hisaus.org. HISA also announced the adding of four new members to its Horsemen's Advisory Group – sales consignor Craig Bandoroff, owner Jonathan Green, owner Michael Levinson and trainer Todd Pletcher. They replace outgoing members Mark Casse, Tom Drury Jr., Linda Gaudet, Fred Hertrich III, David Ingordo and Tom Robbins.

Decreased:

By 38 percent, racing-related equine fatalities at United States racetracks in the first quarter of 2024 when compared to the same time period in 2023. Racetracks operating under HISA's rules and running races in the first quarter reported .84 racing-related equine fatalities per 1,000 starts compared to 1.35 last year.

Milestones

Approved:

By the U.S. House Appropriations Committee in May, up to $5 million in grants for equine therapy under the Veterans Affairs Adaptive Sports Program. Grants will be available to eligible organizations to plan, develop, manage and implement equine therapy programs for veterans and armed forces members with disabilities. The bill was led by Congressman Andy Barr of Kentucky and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. "Funding initiatives to help Thoroughbreds find a second career is a top priority for the NTRA, and to be able to do that while aiding veterans is a big victory," said Tom Rooney, NTRA President and CEO. "This grant will fund equine therapy programs so our retired racehorses can benefit our nation's veterans. Those of us who have been blessed to spend time with Thoroughbreds know how much they do for humans." The NTRA will collaborate with House and Senate leaders as the bill progresses through both chambers of Congress.

Rebranded:

From its former name The Horse Fund, as Wasabi Aftercare Fund, a non-profit created as a commitment to horses bred and/or raced by Wasabi Ventures Stables. Launched in 2021, the fund raises funds and tracks every horse that has been part of the WVS roster, assisting former stable runners as needed in transitions from racing to second careers. Executive director and fund president Michele Pesula Kuegler said the name change more clearly defines the fund's role. In addition, the fund added new board members Jessica Paquette and Brit Vegas to its board. They join Kuegler, Jen Roytz and George Adams. Since its launch, WVS has assisted in the retirement of 29 horses, 10 purchased from other owners for the purpose of retirement.

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

May 6 – June 12

Maryland-bred

FULMINEO, b.c., 2021, Bolt d'Oro—Starr of Quality, by First Dude. B-Country Life Farm & Starr of Quality; O-Starlight Racing & Mark Grier; T-Arnaud Delacour. $100,000 James W. Murphy, Pimlico, May 18..

FUTURE IS NOW, b.f., 2020, Great Notion—Past as Prelude, by Bernardini. B/O-R. Larry Johnson; T-Mike Trombetta. $100,000 The Very One, Pimlico, May 17; $200,000 Intercontinental-G3, Saratoga, June 7.

STUDLYDORIGHT, ch.c., 2022, Nyquist—Peach of a Gal, by Curlin. B-Glenangus Farm; O-David Hughes; T-John J. Robb. $150,000 Tremont, Saratoga, June 6.

New Jersey-bred

AMATTEROFTIME, ch.g., 2015, Eskendereya—Victory Pool, by Victory Gallop. B-New Farm; O-East Street Stable; T-Miguel Penaloza. $85,000 Friendly Lover, Monmouth, June 9.

BOOK'EM DANNO, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper. B-Gregory Kilka & Bright View Farm; O-Atlantic Six Racing; T-Derek Ryan. $500,000 Woody Stephens -G1, Saratoga, June 8.

MIA'S CRUSADE, b.m., 2019, Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon. B-Dianne Boyken; O-Prancing Horse Farm; T-Chuck Spina. $85,000 Spruce Fir, Monmouth, May 18.

RIDING PRETTY, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Jack Milton—High Renaissance, by Girolamo. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $85,000 Smart N Classy, Monmouth, June 2.

SEA STREAK, b.g., 2021, Sea Wizard—High Noon Nellie, by Silver Deputy. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $100,000 Long Branch, Monmouth, May 11.

SPEAKING, dk.b./br.g., 2019, Mr Speaker—High Noon Nellie, by Silver Deputy. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $85,000 John J. Reilly, Monmouth, May 19.

Pennsylvania-bred

FIERCE AND STRONG, b.g., 2020, Hoppertunity—Doubleclickdamouse, by Point of Entry. B/O-Ultra Championship Racing; T-Michael Salvaggio Jr. $100,000 With Anticipation, Penn National, May 31.

GET SET, b.g., 2017, Awesome of Course—Enthusiastic Gal, by Ecclesiastic. B-Joseph Imbesi; O-Madison Avenue Racing Stable & Jagger Inc.; T-Jamie Ness. $50,000 Fabulous Strike, Penn National, May 31.

NEECIE MARIE, b.f., 2020, Cross Traffic—Lode Lady, by Posse. B-Jon Marshall; O-Milam Racing Stables; T-Robert Reid Jr. $175,000 Beaugay-G3, Belmont At The Big A, May 11.

NEW HIRE, dk.b./br.m., 2019, Lookin At Lucky—Gwendolyn, by Lion Hearted. B-Arrowwood Farm; O-Tom Coulter; T-Erin McClellan. $50,000 Penn Ladies Dash, Penn National, May 31.

STERN CHASER, dk.b./br.m., 2019, Astern (Aus)—Mysterious Ways, by Bernardini. B-Gregory & Caroline Bentley; O-Runnymoore Racing; T-Michael Matz. $100,000 Lyphard, Penn National, May 31.

West Virginia-bred

GREAT SPIRIT, b.f., 2020, Great Notion—Happy Numbers, by Polish Numbers. B/O-Jill Daniel; T-Crystal Pickett. $75,000 Fancy Buckles, Charles Town, June 1.

JUBAWITHATWIST, gr./ro.g., 2021, Juba—Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork. B-John A. Casey; O-KP Racing Stables; T-Kristy Petty. $75,000 Coin Collector, Charles Town, May 11.

Illman receives Old Hilltop from MJC

Daily Racing Form handicapper and writer Dan Illman received the Maryland Jockey Club's Old Hilltop Award during Preakness Week for covering racing with excellence and distinction. A racing fan since childhood, Illman, lead anchor for DRF's handicapping videos since 2003, grew up on Long Island halfway between Belmont Park and Aqueduct. The graduate of Nova Southeastern University began his career at Sports Eye and authored the handicapping book *Betting Maidens & Two-Year-Olds*. The DRF's Mid-Atlantic correspondent since 2020 might want to consider expanding to stand-up comedy after his Old Hilltop acceptance speech at the MJC's annual Alibi Breakfast May 16.

Among other thoughts, he shared a beef with the connections of Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mystik Dan spoiling what could have been a big moment in Illman's life.

"Brian Hernandez and Kenny McPeek double-crossed me and I realized I would not be the most popular and celebrated Dan on the racetrack at Pimlico," Illman said. "I don't know why the horse couldn't have been named Mystik Sam or Mystik Don . . ."

Like most Old Hilltop winners, Illman thought back to his earliest days as a racing fan.

"I was a very small child and my math teacher asked me, 'What is

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

43 and 2?' and I said, 'Good for the closers,' " he said before tying it all together in a note of thanks.

"It probably would have been better for my bank account [to pursue another career]," he said, "but I don't think it would have been as good for my soul because for the last 25 years I've been surrounded by some of the most talented people in racing covering the greatest sport in the world as we know it."

Illman was joined by Baltimore's WBAL Radio and photographer John Voorhees as media award honorees at the Preakness. WBAL earned the David F. Woods Award for its three-hour live coverage of the 148th Preakness. The show was co-produced by Scott Wykoff and Pete Medhurst and included live calls of the undercard by Maryland Jockey Club and Preakness announcer Dave Rodman. Voorhees, photographing for Eclipse Sportswire, was recognized with the Jerry Frutkoff Award for his image of National Treasure and jockey John Velazquez winning the 148th Preakness.

Maryland owner/breeder Ellen Charles received a special MJC award for contributions to racing, while Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue co-founder and executive director Bev Strauss was the honorary postmaster of Preakness 149.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

"A Great Ride" as Mindframe caps 40 years of breeding: Maryland-bred Mindframe's short career so far makes him feel like an overnight success, but he's the result of 40 years of work for breeder Larry Johnson, writes Frank Vespe.

Youngkin's "gray games" veto right for racing: Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin vetoed a bill that would have permitted so-called "gray games' with few restrictions: it was the right call for racing, writes Nick Hahn.

Studlydoright runs 'em down in Tremont: Maryland-bred Studlydoright upset Saratoga's Tremont Stakes, capping a whirlwind two days for trainer Jerry Robb, Teresa Genaro reports.

Charles Town: Younger sibs trying to fill big shoes: Furreal and What'shername, both half-siblings to WV-bred millionaires, won impressively on consecutive nights, and both are their dams' last foals, writes Ted Black.

Milestone wins for jocks Angel Rodriguez, Anthony Radcliffe: Angel Rodriguez got his 2,000th career victory at Penn National, and apprentice Anthony Radcliffe picked up his first at Delaware Park on the same day, May 29.

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred receives AHP honors

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine received five awards in the American Horse Publications' Equine Media Awards contest for material published in 2023.

Presented at the AHP's annual conference in Lexington, Ky., May 18, the honors included:

• A first place in the Human-Animal Bond category for "A Moving Preakness," a May 2023 feature looking back at Secretariat's Preakness Stakes-G1 win 50 years earlier. Written by Joe Clancy and illustrated with Cappy Jackson's photos from 1973, the article topped 13 entries and drew praise from judges. "It's good to tell that story through the eyes of the witnesses . . . it's not the writer telling us it was a great race and a great horse; it's the people he interviewed."

• A first place for the editorial action photo "Storm Chaser" published in the November 2023 edition. Scott Serio of Eclipse Sportswire took the photo of Maryland Million Turf runners exiting the final turn at Laurel Park. "At first, this seems a standard, workmanlike racing photo, but it's much more," judges wrote. "Catching all the action, colors, hooves, rain, concentration, and tension was surely more a result of skill and planning than just firing the shutter."

• A first place for editorial photo "The Eyes Have It," also by Serio and from the same edition and also from Maryland Million Day. This image captured delighted pony racers after their race. Judges wrote, "The photographer captured a great moment here, enhancing it with the skillful use of sharp focus and freeze motion right down to the raindrops. This image will surely evoke joy from the onlooker."

In other results, third-place nods went to Vinnie Perrone's October 2023 feature on trainer Hammy Smith in the personality profile category and Clancy's editorial "You Ready to Defend Racing" from the July/August 2023 edition. Regular magazine contributor Douglas Lees finished first and second in the freelance editorial photograph for two images from steeplechase races in *In and Around Horse Country* and the *Fauquier Times*.

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

My Afleet

Nancy Amling Harris has a special bond with the multi-talented My Afleet, bred by her father Jeffrey Amling (right).

Nancy Amling Harris has been surrounded by Thoroughbreds throughout her life. From a fox-hunting family, she grew up on Harford Hill Farm in Monkton, Md., and spent her childhood and teenage years involved in what she calls "a pretty serious showing career in hunters and jumpers."

"We'd go down to Wellington to compete pretty much through college, and then life happens. . . marriage, kids. I was living in New York for about 10 years and my family and I – we have two boys – moved back to Maryland from New York City two years ago. I started foxhunting more and it's just been a great way to keep riding and have horses a part of my life."

It was just before that relocation from New York when a horse bred and owned by her father, Jeffrey Amling, and his business partner Charlie Noell grabbed her attention. Watching a National Steeplechase Association live stream, she saw My Afleet compete in the Steeplethon Stakes cross-country race on the Virginia Gold Cup card at Great Meadow in May 2021.

"I called my dad and said, 'What's the plan for that one?' He looked so brave and smart," Harris said.

Then 10 years old, My Afleet was a stakes winner on the flat before re-emerging over hurdles and eventually timber as well. Bred in Kentucky, he is by Preakness/Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Afleet Alex out of Amling and Noell's Lasting Approval mare My Own Story. The gray began his career with trainer Chuck Lawrence at Laurel Park as a 2-year-old in November 2013, breaking his maiden in his fourth start at Keeneland in April 2014.

Turf routes proved his forte, and Lawrence placed him wisely. An allowance win at Saratoga in August 2014 preceded a trip to Kentucky Downs for the $250,000 Dueling Grounds Derby the following month. My Afleet rewarded his connections with a nose victory over graded stakes winners Medal Count and Can'thelpbelieving (Ire). Running just once in 2015, My Afleet made four starts in 2016 for Lawrence, the last a second in Saratoga's John's Call Stakes Aug. 24.

"He gave me one of my biggest wins," Lawrence said of the Dueling Grounds Derby score. "He was a gorgeous horse with a beautiful stride."

My Afleet retired to Harford Hill Farm, placing him squarely on the radar of steeplechase jockey-turned-trainer Mark Beecher.

"I used to rent a tenant house and a barn from Charlie Noell at Harford Hill," Beecher began. "My Afleet was basically retired there after his flat career. I was looking at him every day jumping around and bucking around the paddock, and I was looking at my own stock and thinking, 'This fella looks a lot better than mine.' I used to go to Aiken and winter down there. I had space on the trailer going down, so I just loaded him up and took him with me, then I called Charlie and told him I had put his horse on the trailer."

Thinking My Afleet was retired on the farm, Noell was initially unsure which horse Beecher meant.

"He wasn't sure which horse because he pretty much thought he was retired after his flat career," Beecher said. "I told Charlie I wouldn't charge him if the horse didn't hold up."

The horse held up.

His debut over jumps in a maiden hurdle at Tryon April 15, 2017, gave Beecher his first sanctioned win as a trainer. After an allowance win at Great Meadow in May, Beecher sent My Afleet out in novice stakes company twice in 2017 – a second at Nashville and a fourth at Saratoga.

"He might have picked up a little knock, because he missed the next season," Beecher said. Back for 2019, he finished second in his 8-year-old debut in the Queen's Cup MPC Chase Hurdle Stakes in North Carolina but lost his next three hurdle starts, falling in the last. Beecher hunted the horse in the off season with an eye toward starts over timber. The trainer was quick to credit his wife Rebecca.

"To be totally honest, me training the horse was basically down to my wife, because she looked after him," Beecher said. "I wasn't even allowed to put a bandage or a grooming brush near him. So without her, the horse probably wouldn't have been as good as he was. I switched him over to timber because he was just losing a bit of speed. And he won his maiden timber at Willowdale and raced in a couple of the steeplethons."

Eyeballed by Nancy via online video feed, My Afleet finished third in the 2021 Steeplethon, a 3-mile race over various obstacles, including a lake crossing.

Amling told his daughter the decision was only half his, and that Noell had to agree.

"I think I emailed Charlie three or four times," Harris said. "I thought he could have a great career if he retired sound and happy. I knew at that point that I was moving back to Maryland, so I sort of begged Charlie for him."

Beecher wasn't sure, until he really thought about it.

"In my own head, I was like, 'Well, he's not really finished,' " Beecher said. "But then when I looked at it, I was like you know what, this horse doesn't owe me anything; he's been a great horse for me. He was sound, he was my first winner and he was a great addition to our barn. Why should we wait until they run bad; let's do this. And it's fantastic . . . I see Nancy out hunting him. It's another career. People go on about careers after racing. After the flat he was a hurdle horse and then a timber horse, now he's a hunter. So he's had four."

Officially retired from racing for the second time, My Afleet went home with a record of 26-6-6-3 and $394,612. He took up residence with Anna McKnight Dryden at the farm she and husband Dyson own in White Hall, Md. Anna Dryden and Harris grew up together, remaining best friends through college, careers, marriage and children.

> "You wonder when you get one off the track what their mind will be like. But he's just so smart and calm."
>
> *– Nancy Amling Harris*

Harris is an event planner living with her family in the Guilford area of Baltimore. Dryden, a contemporary art dealer formerly with Sotheby's, now competes in the Grand Prix open jumper circuit in the U.S. and Europe. Nicknamed "Alfie" in the barn, My Afleet is part of the process.

"Anna uses Alfie as sort of a school horse when she's home because her horses are in Wellington or Europe usually," said Harris said. "So he gets to be a de facto practice horse. It keeps him in shape, and I think it's just good when you are at her level to get on a horse every day. I don't get out there as much as I like, I'd say a couple times a month and then during hunting season. Anna's husband Dyson hunts him as well. I work full-time and so does Dyson, so between the two of us he has a full-time rider."

Harris praises My Afleet's temperament and mind, especially appreciated because she and Dryden each have two young children.

"You wonder when you get one off the track what their mind will be like. But he's just so smart and calm. I have a 7-year-old and a 3-year-old, and Anna has a 9- and 7-year-old. He's as happy around the ponies and kids as he is going first flight with me in the hunt field."

And in the hunt field, Harris and My Afleet often ride with Mark and Rebecca Beecher.

"I think Mark and Rebecca did a wonderful job with him," Harris said. "I know Rebecca really adored him. I think they just gave him a chance to be a horse, and he's a lovely one. He really came into his own as he got a bit older."

"We're all very fortunate to have these horses," Beecher said. "He deserves a write-up like this because there's not too many good horses that can win on the flat and then hurdles and timber and now be a good hunt horse as well. It's important too that horses like that come along. He gave me a boost at the start, and I was lucky to have him in the barn. I wish I had a barn full of him." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Special Preakness moment not lost in the Pimlico mud

In low heels, a black skirt, white blazer, fashionable scarf and hat, Laurie Lukas stepped into the light brown goo of Pimlico Race Course's dirt track an hour or so after the Preakness Stakes.

Trying to be of assistance, I offered an elbow.

"Can I help you get across this?" I said.

Quietly, she replied, "I'm OK, but I think my husband could use a hand."

Dressed in jeans, cowboy boots and signature cowboy hat, Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas – all 88 years of him – negotiated the same mud as his wife. Fresh from the post-race news conference filled with wit and more than a few jokes, he carried a cane in his right hand and stepped with a blend of care and confidence.

If he needed help, he didn't let on. And I wasn't about to ask.

"This is a lot heavier than I thought it was," he said about 10 steps across. "He got through this, OK?"

Yes he did.

Seize the Grey handled the track – labeled muddy but somewhere south of wet cement – just fine. His trainer and his wife and I managed too, adding a fitting lid to a day of his-

tory. Lukas won his first Preakness in 1980, when Codex outran and overpowered Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Genuine Risk. Lukas and his horse were villains that day, denying the filly a second step toward a Triple Crown. I was a freshman at Unionville High School. Forty-four years later, Lukas and Seize the Grey were heroes – mixing self-deprecation and a puncher's chance with ability and good fortune to create a classic win. It was the seventh Preakness win for Lukas, one behind Bob Baffert's eight, and the 15th in a Triple Crown race.

To be there was to witness a racing moment.

After getting across the track, Lukas headed up the chute and through Pimlico's indoor paddock inside a mostly empty grandstand. A young girl stopped Lukas for an autograph. He signed a set of goggles and posed for a photo. An older signature seeker handed Lukas four programs from the day. The trainer signed all four.

Down the ramp, through the doors and left toward the parking lot, the Lukases heard "Congratulations" from several corners but also got a serious, "Watch your step. It's wet right there" from a security guard who probably didn't know who won the Preakness. Nobody slipped, and Laurie looked for a ride back to the stakes barn.

"We have a cart coming," she said. "Or I think we do."

On cue, Melanie Martin arrived behind the wheel of a golf cart – tears in her eyes. Fifty or so weeks of the year she manages the Maryland Veterinary Group practice at Laurel Park. In mid-May, she oversees Preakness horsemen's hospitality at Pimlico. All trainers and their staffs matter, but Wayne Lukas is something special.

"I was totally intimidated," she said of the first time she met him. "He sits on that corner with the hat and all that. You think about what he's done. He's been nothing but a gentleman, never an air or an attitude. If anyone had a right to have a little bit of an air it would be him."

Martin was at Pimlico when Oxbow won the 2013 Preakness for Lukas – suit, no cowboy hat, like in 1980 – and watched Laurie cut the post-race cake that year. She joked about it being practice for a wedding cake. A year later, they were married. Now, the Lukases feel like family.

"They're so gracious, and have always been that way," Martin said. "They're so real and welcoming and thankful for what we do. I was so happy when Seize the Grey won. It feels like he's my horse, a little bit."

For all its flaws, old, dilapidated and soon-to-be-demolished Pimlico and its signature race bring pride to Maryland racing. The work of Martin, and countless others, is a big part of it and out-of-town horsemen always go out of their way to mention how welcome they feel when they visit.

Martin loves playing her part, for Hall of Famers like Lukas and the hotwalkers and grooms who care for the horses.

"It's because of them, that's why we do it, and the history of this place," Martin said. "I'm very lucky that I get to do it. It's a fun week, an exhausting week, but a fun week. It's very fulfilling and heart-warming. This year, when they won, it was even more." ■

JIM MCCUE

PREAKNESS STAKES

Grabbing Hold

SEIZE THE GREY COMES THROUGH FOR BREEDER, MORE AT PIMLICO

By Joe Clancy

Celebratory in all its doomed dilapidation, the Pimlico Race Course building shook as fans cheered for history. Across a sloppy dirt track and a wet turf course in temporary hospitality structures, more of the estimated 40,000 in attendance marveled at the spectacle. Near the infield winner's circle, used just twice a year, a hundred owners chanted their horse's name as if he were a hockey goalie a minute from a playoff shutout.

And Audie Otto found a quiet place to appreciate it all.

Breeder of 2024 Preakness Stakes-G1 winner Seize the Grey, Otto stood by an infield picket fence and watched her horse.

"Oh look at him," she said as the gray Arrogate colt walked on the turf course and 25-year-old jockey Jaime Torres encouraged all those fans for cheers. "He tried so hard, he didn't get tired, he was so good today."

Otto thought of her mother, Tolie, who died 13 months earlier. She named the family's racing/breeding operation Jamm Ltd. for the first initials of their children – John, Audie, Michael and Matthew – and bred/owned successful Thoroughbreds while never keeping more than a half-dozen mares. Tolie Otto would have loved a Preakness win, her daughter said with a look toward the sky, "Mom, this is something." A few yards away, Seize the Grey received the blanket of black-eyed Susans and circled for the NBC television cameras as afternoon turned to evening in Baltimore May 18. Behind her, "Seize the Grey . . . Seize the Grey . . . Seize the Grey" droned from some of the 2,570 partners in the MyRacehorse microshare ownership venture.

"This is the first Triple Crown leg that we've won and the first time we've even been here," Audie said. "My mom and dad were friends with Charlie Cella, who owned Oaklawn Park, and he used to take them to the Arkansas Derby with a big group of people. They got the bug and got into racing.

"They are here. They are. I can feel them and I know that they are so tickled. I know that they are. I'm kind of speechless. What's really amazing about it is I only have five broodmares, and here we are."

The feeling was all around.

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

1/ST

JEFFREY SNYDER

Seize the Grey (right) charges off the final turn ahead of Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan and the others.

> "It doesn't get old, it's still the same. In 1980, I had the first one here I ever ran, and it still feels the same."
>
> *– Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, after winning his seventh Preakness*

Based on qualifying points, Seize the Grey didn't make the Kentucky Derby-G1 field two weeks earlier at Churchill Downs. Rather than waiting out the scratch list as an alternate, trainer D. Wayne Lukas aimed for the Pat Day Mile Stakes-G2 on the same card. Seize the Grey split horses in the stretch and won by 1¼ lengths to earn a spot in the 149th Preakness.

Sent off at nearly 10-1 for the $2 million classic, he went right to the front and turned aside all challengers including a big one from Derby winner Mystik Dan at the top of the stretch. Seize the Grey won by 2¼ lengths in 1:56.82 for 1 3/16 miles over a track labeled muddy but leaning toward "peanut butter" according to the winning trainer. Favorite Mystik Dan hung on to second by a head over Catching Freedom. Lukas, 88, won his seventh Preakness – 44 years after the first with Codex in 1980.

"It doesn't get old, it's still the same," said the Hall of Famer, who spent another Preakness Week telling stories from his unparalleled career, and then adding to it. "In 1980, I had the first one here I ever ran, and it still feels the same . . . One of

RICK BUCKLEY

Jamie Torres celebrates his first classic win as Seize the Grey reaches the Preakness finish line.

the things that was very significant to me today – and maybe it's because I'm getting a little bit older – but as I came out of the grandstand and out across the racetrack, every one of the guys that were in that race stopped and hugged me and gave me a handshake. That meant more to me than any single thing."

At the annual Alibi Breakfast two days before the race, Lukas told jokes about old age, country music, pajamas, hotels, jigsaw puzzles, elephants in rooms and anything else you could imagine – pausing to ask, "Are we supposed to say something about our horses?" Answering his own question, he turned to the race itself and said, "Nobody's going to steal it."

Well, nobody else.

Leading the Way

Morning-line favorite at entry time, California-based Arkansas Derby-G1 winner Muth was scratched after he spiked a fever at Pimlico the week of the race. The defection left eight starters, topped by Derby winner Mystik Dan. Fourth in the Derby, Catching Freedom wound up the second choice among a group that included one other starter from the first step of the Triple Crown (Just Steel, 17th). Muth's Bob Baffert-trained stablemate Imagination, a Grade 2 winner in March, made the field along with the Grade 2-placed Tuscan Gold, Pennsylvania-bred Withers Stakes-G3 winner Uncle Heavy and longshot Mugatu (a son of Maryland stallion Blofeld).

Seize the Grey exited post five in the clear as fellow Lukas trainee Just Steel jumped to the right and into Tuscan Gold. From the outside stall, Imagination left running for Frankie Dettori. Past the finish line the first time, Seize the Grey and Imagination vied for control. They hit the first turn together, Imagination wide and strong, Seize the Grey inside and relaxed on a long hold through a quarter-mile in :23.98. Behind them, Mystik Dan stalked on the rail alongside Just Steel. Seize the Grey led by 2 lengths after a half in :47.33 – handling the mud and finding a comfort zone.

"I thought when they're going down the backside that it would be very hard to catch him," Lukas said. "The one thing

that really surprised me, though, is when I walked across the track after the race, I was amazed at how deep and sticky it was. Watching them run over it, the way he did it, I thought he just skipped over it."

Midway through the final turn, Brian Hernandez Jr. gave Mystik Dan some rein and he closed the gap to draft into second while pushing Imagination and Just Steel wider. Behind them, Catching Freedom revved up.

Seize the Grey led by about a length at the quarter pole, as Mystik Dan tipped out for a bid and looked primed to keep his Triple Crown bid alive.

He switched to his right lead as the field crossed the mud marks left by the starting gate and took aim. Seize the Grey responded and led past the eighth pole. Mystik Dan made one final play in the last sixteenth, but never threatened as Catching Freedom rallied latest of all for third.

> "When it came to horses and the business, I respected her and trusted her and that became the place where we connected. Horses can do anything. They really can."
>
> *– Winning breeder Audie Otto, about her late mother Tolie*

"I was going to do whatever Imagination was going to do," said Torres. "I knew he was going to go to the lead. I think we looked at each other and he said, 'Well, you go' and I went so I took the lead. He's such an amazing horse. He just relaxed for me, and he felt the other horses coming close and he was just looking at them. As soon as I asked, I had a lot of horse. That was like from the quarter [pole] to the wire, he gave me everything."

Seize the Grey won for the fourth time and earned $1.2 million for the victory. Purchased by MyRacehorse for $300,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select yearling sale in 2022, he won the second start of his career at Saratoga nearly a year later with a front-running upset of future Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Dornoch July 29. Third in the off-the-turf Skidmore Stakes in mid-August, Seize the Grey completed his 2-year-old campaign with a fourth in the Iroquois Stakes-G3 in September and a third in allowance company at Keeneland in October.

The Preakness winner opened 2024 with an allowance win at Oaklawn Park in February, finished third in the Jeff Ruby Steaks-G3 at Turfway Park in March and was seventh in the Blue Grass Stakes-G1 at Keeneland in April. Lukas replaced Nik Juarez with Torres and Seize the Grey produced in the Pat Day and the Preakness. Seventh in the Belmont Stakes, he finished June with the four wins from 11 starts for $1,839,938 in earnings.

In the Beginning

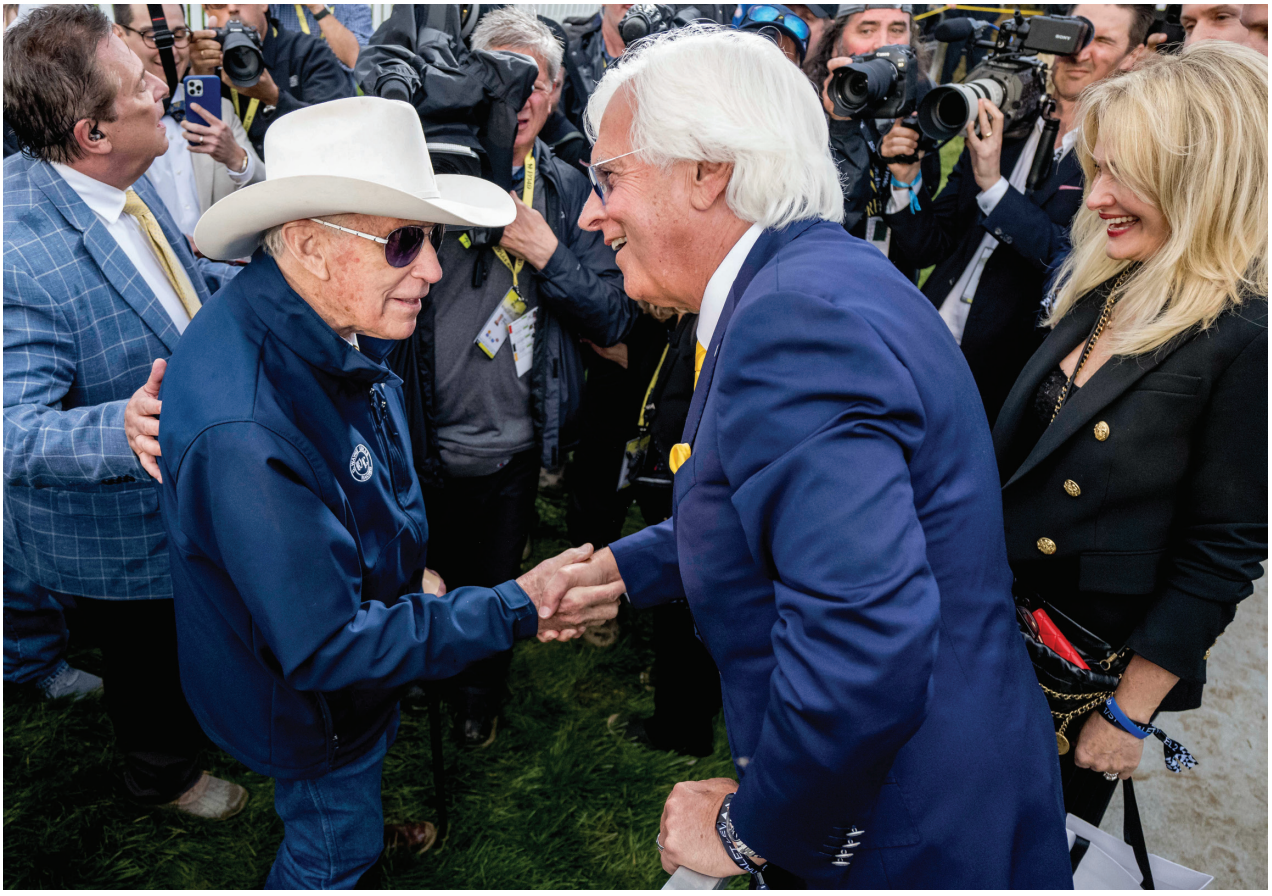
Those trips to the Arkansas Derby with Cella surely planted a seed, but Tolie Otto's Thoroughbred connections came from a variety of directions via St. Louis and elsewhere.

She was part of a group of friends including owners/breeders Nancy Vanier, Jerry Amerman and Shirley Taylor each with ties to Mill Ridge and its founder Alice Chandler. Taylor and Tolie Otto owned Existentialist together and the mare produced eight foals, six winners, and two seven-figure sales yearlings before selling for $1.2 million herself in 2000. Tolie's husband John played polo and rode show horses, and the family lived for a time at the Bridlespur Hunt Club near St. Louis. Horses, though not necessarily racehorses, were always part of the family and especially so during the annual Bridlespur Horse Show.

"It would be magical as a little girl," said Audie Otto. "I'd go to sleep one night and the pasture and fields were empty and I'd wake up the next morning and there would be all this activity and horses."

The pursuit came naturally thanks to family ties to Anheuser-Busch, the Wallace Pencil Company and a food-service management business with contracts throughout the Midwest including St. Louis University, Busch Stadium and the Cincinnati Reds.

"Mom came from a very affluent family," said Audie Otto. "She did whatever she wanted, but was very unassuming. You wouldn't have known. Dad came from a nice family as well. He was a polo player, a really good show jumper with lots of trophies and what have you. I don't know how he got started riding. It was just part of his life. He started the food-service business with his brother-in-law, but he always said he'd have been happier walking hots on the racetrack."



ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

Wayne Lukas (left) gets a congratulatory handshake from fellow Hall of Famer Bob Baffert after the win.

Tolie Otto moved to Lexington, Ky., to be closer to the Thoroughbred world and connected her daughter to the business and the 900-acre Mill Ridge, which has operated as a breeding, foaling, stallion and sales-prep farm since its formation in 1962. Stallions Oscar Performance and Aloha West fill the roster now, following Gone West and Diesis (GB) among others.

Breeder of Epsom Derby winner Sir Ivor, Chandler died in 2021 but her influence still percolates on the farm through her son Headley Bell and grandson Price Bell and clients such as Audie Otto.

"It's completely about the horses, I wouldn't do it otherwise," said Audie. "Mom and I had a very complicated relationship, it wasn't the closest, and when I became an adult, I consciously looked for something that would connect us. It became horses. That was somewhere we could meet. When it came to horses and the business, I respected her and trusted her and that became the place where we connected. Horses can do anything. They really can."

In 2007, Jamm spent $450,000 on maiden broodmare Shop Again at Keeneland November. The Wild Again mare, in foal to First Samurai, needed a $45,000 maiden claimer to get her first win (after 13 losses), but won four races including a stakes at Remington Park in 2006 while earning $122,274. Her half-sister, millionaire Miss Shop, won a Saratoga Grade 1 three months before the sale. In addition, Shop Again came from a deep female family tracing through the storied breeding programs of Hobeau Farm, Arthur Hancock III, Ogden Mills Phipps and Wheatley Stable.

The First Samurai foal, a filly, sold for $330,000 as a yearling. A 2009 Gone West filly won once for her breeders. A 2010 Pulpit colt turned into Grade 1 winner Power Broker. A 2011 Tiznow filly, Fierce Boots, won a stakes for Bobby Flay. A Malibu Moon filly, Fast Retailing, sold for $1 million. Jamm kept Shop Again's 2013 filly by Smart Strike. Named Smart Shopping, she won her debut at Churchill Downs for trainer Brendan Walsh in November 2015, placed in a stakes the following winter and was retired two starts later.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Technically belonging to a few thousand people as part of the MyRacehorse micro-share ownership group, Seize the Grey brought a crowd to the Preakness winner's circle as the silks went up on the infield weather vane.

She joined her dam in the broodmare band and tried to add to the family legacy. Her 2022 yearling went to Saratoga as part of the Mill Ridge consignment, with his place in the last crop of Arrogate (who died in 2020) and that female family the only sales pitches.

"He was the third foal out of the mare, she hadn't had any production yet so he was kind of in that gap year," said Mill Ridge general manager Price Bell. "He always carried himself really well and the idea was to go to Saratoga where people can look at him, take him in and enjoy him. We often go to Saratoga and sell very few horses over the average of the sale, but we have sold a lot of good stakes horses out of there because you're given the confidence from the Fasig team to bring good horses. They tell us to bring racehorses and give people a chance to see them."

Roderick Wachman and MyRacehorse saw Seize the Grey and went to $300,000 – $168,217 below the average, $75,000 under the median and $2 million less than the sales-topper and eventual Derby and Belmont-placed Sierra Leone.

"We as consignors are constantly weighing the question of 'Where does this horse stand on the biggest platform?' " said Mill Ridge managing partner Headley Bell. "You're going to be scrutinized at Saratoga, but people could see he was a late-April foal, and that he was still developing. It allows you to get in front of people who aren't making a list of horses. They're there to look at horses, individual horses."

When she found out who bought her horse, Audie Otto purchased five shares, so she wound up a co-owner and breeder of a classic winner a little more than a year after her mother died at 87. The pipeline includes a 2-year-old Justify—Smart Shopping filly who will go to Brendan Walsh, plus an Oscar Performance—Shop Again yearling colt headed to Saratoga this summer.

"Headley helps us decide what to keep and what to sell, and I remember we had another Arrogate at the time and [Seize the Grey] was a standout," she said. "I don't typically race the colts, but I like to race a little bit more than Mom did and I'm in the middle of building my portfolio from within. The accomplishment is sort of mind-boggling. To have this be one of my first decisions I made on my own kind of leaves me speechless."

Much like she was while standing in the Pimlico infield late on Preakness Day.

"That's one of my favorite moments – where we were – the fact that everybody was so focused on the winner's circle that we got to have that time and that space and getting to see him come back and get the blanket of flowers put on him," she said. "That to me is what it's all about. Getting to be in that kind of moment. What a cool customer he was through it all. I was so proud of him." ■

Aiming High

FULMINEO CONTINUES CLIMB WITH MURPHY STAKES WIN

By Tom Law and Joe Clancy

Mike and Josh Pons and the other members of the team at Country Life Farm felt pretty good about sending their homebred colt by Bolt d'Oro out of their stakes-winning First Dude mare Starr of Quality to Saratoga for the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings.

"He was a stone-cold killer," Mike Pons said of the colt, cataloged to sell in the prime late spot in the opening session as Hip 91. He looked the part of a Saratoga yearling and saw plenty of action in and out of his stall for inspections at the Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services consignment. Everything lined up, until it didn't.

"He had a little vet issue and they clobbered us," Pons said, 'they' being buyers. "He only brought 90."

The $90,000 paid by Starlight Racing wound up the third lowest of the sale, far behind the $2.3 million paid for eventual Grade 1 winner and Kentucky Derby-G1 runner-up Sierra Leone and well below the sale's average price of $468,217.

"But we had Jack Wolf and Frankie Brothers on board; they picked him out," Pons said. "With them we figured he'd go to Todd Pletcher or Arnaud Delacour, or somebody like that. So, we said, 'let's let this horse go and get in his camp.' And so we did."

A little more than a year later the colt, named Fulmineo and campaigned by Starlight in partnership with Mark Grier, became a winner and a month later became Grade 2 placed. He placed in another stakes this winter at Tampa Bay Downs and came through with his biggest performance winning the $100,000 James W. Murphy Stakes at Pimlico Race Course on Preakness Day May 18.

"To be on the card, to be here and to have the weather clear up and stop raining, everything fell into place," Grier said. "Nice horse, great ride. He has been fun. We've been kind of waiting for him to come on like this and hopefully from here he can move forward."

Under Flavien Prat for the second time – he rode the colt first when second in last year's Pilgrim Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct – and wearing blinkers for the first time, Fulmineo stayed in the clear on the outside up the backstretch.

He took over in the stretch, opened up by 3 lengths in midstretch and won by 2¼ lengths over Crystal Quest. Abrumar finished third. Fulmineo completed the 1-mile distance in 1:44.78 over the course listed soft after morning rains.

"We'll look at the condition book, but we'll try to find some soft ground for him and see if we can step him up," Delacour said. "He's improving. It's great having a 3-year-old peaking at this time of the year."

Fulmineo is the first foal out of Starr of Quality, a California-bred who won six of 26 starts and earned $307,529 racing exclusively in her native state for trainer Bill Spawr. She won the 2019 Dream of Summer Stakes at Santa Anita. Country Life Farm bought the mare, carrying Fulmineo in utero, for $72,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November breeding stock sale.

Fulmineo was bred by Country Life and Starr of Quality LLC, the latter a partnership of several longtime clients of the Bel Air, Md., farm, and part of a big-picture plan.

"Some of them are relatively new, but they're players," Pons said. "It's great to bring everyone together. I'd be at horse sales and see horses go by and couldn't raise my hand. Now I can

"We're going to win the Preakness. I'm sure we're going to and this is how we get there. This mare may get us there, or other mares like her."

– Country Life Farm's Mike Pons, about Fulmineo's dam Starr of Quality

jump in and buy a horse for 100 grand with the confidence knowing I'm not going to get stuck out on the limb. It's been fun and days like today are the validation of it.

"We're old Marylanders and a lot of these guys have a little Old Bay flavoring in their backgrounds. It's really been kind of magical."

Starr of Quality's second foal, a filly by Gun Runner, fared much better at the 2023 Saratoga sale and brought $775,000 from Solis/Litt Bloodstock on behalf of LNJ Foxwoods.

"We're going to win the Preakness. I'm sure we're going to and this is how we get there," Pons said. "This mare may get us there, or other mares like her. If you do it enough times and keep going back and you're honest enough with yourself to admit the mistakes you made, you'll be amazed at what you could do. That's our goal. I love it. Like they say, if your dreams don't scare you, get new ones."

■ A big performance like the one Corporate Power put on gutting out the $100,000 Sir Barton Stakes often leads to an even bigger challenge. Shug McGaughey wasn't about to head down that path with the lightly-raced son of Curlin.

"I'd like to be in a race where I'll be 8-5 next time," McGaughey said on his way out of the paddock after Corporate Power won the 1 1/16-mile Sir Barton by a nose over Gould's Gold.

The Belmont Stakes at Saratoga did not come on McGaughey's radar immediately, or even in the three weeks that passed between Preakness week and Belmont week.

"He's not ready for the big boys," McGaughey said. "I'd like to race him one more time and face them in the fall."

Corporate Power, a $925,000 Keeneland September yearling owned by Don Adam's Courtlandt Farms, might give the winners of the spring classics trouble this summer and into the fall if he puts together races like the Sir Barton. Kept wide early by Javier Castellano, Corporate Power inched up to third through 6 furlongs in 1:12.46 and didn't let Gould's Gold get away in the lane. After a bump with Imperial Gun approaching the sixteenth pole, Corporate Power continued on and edged Gould's Gold at the finish. Imperial Gun and Joel Rosario finished a neck back in third. Rosario claimed foul against the winner for interference but didn't succeed with the stewards.

McGaughey put blinkers on Corporate Power for the first time and he and Castellano said it made a difference.

"It's a process," Castellano said. "Young horses start developing . . . He's still figuring it out. Turning for home, he lost focus [and] at the quarter pole he lost momentum. I had to ride him a little bit, get him to pick it up. I liked the way he finished. He likes to be competitive."

■ A few moments after Apple Picker won the $100,000 Skipat Stakes, trainer Brittany Russell pondered where the 4-year-old filly would go next.

The question routinely gets asked, and even if trainers would probably prefer to say "the barn," they at least try to find an answer. Russell suggested Laurel Park's Alma North Stakes July 28 for Michael Dubb's homebred.

"She likes home," Russell said. "She likes Maryland."

Indeed. The Skipat was Apple Picker's third stakes win in her home state, joining last year's Weather Vane and this year's Barbara Fritchie-G3. To top it off, the daughter of Connect finished second in the 2023 Safely Kept and Willa On the Move as part of a five-win career with $402,483 earned through June 15. In her last five starts in Maryland, all stakes, she's been first or second.

Sent off as the 3-1 second choice in the Skipat, Apple Picker rated off the early pace of Sweet Shild O Mine and Swall before taking over in the stretch and drawing off by 1¾ lengths under Russell's husband Sheldon. Cutting back after back-to-back races at 7 furlongs, the winner navigated 6 furlongs over a muddy/sealed track in 1:12.34.

"It set up great for her," said Brittany. "You always worry when there's moisture in the racetrack. Sometimes it favors speed, but she's a tough filly and she'll run through anything

JEFFREY SNYDER

Fulmineo, bred in Maryland by a Country Life Farm partnership, scores his first stakes win in the James W. Murphy Stakes.

and it set up. She's just tough, she's just a racehorse. She's one of those horses who just shows up to work every day and that's how she's been for us in the afternoons."

■ A 5-furlong turf sprint only lasts about a minute so horses better make it count. Especially if they run like Grooms All Bizness.

The Colts Neck Stables homebred broke first from the inside post, allowed seven horses to pass him up the backstretch and into the turn, waited behind horses in the stretch, moved to the outside and – on his left lead – wrestled to the front to win by 1½ lengths over Witty in 1:01.08.

All in his first start of 2024. Off a two-win 2023 topped by a score in the Get Serious Stakes at Monmouth Park in June, trainer Jorge Duarte gave the 5-year-old Fed Biz gelding the winter off at the New Jersey farm and aimed for Pimlico.

"Toward the end of the year, he needed a little break," Duarte said. "He came back good this spring and we were ready to go. We have 18 paddocks, we just let him be a horse. We turned him out – in the winter you pick the days that work – but he's outside and we let him be a horse. Then in February we put the tack on and started training again."

Eight months between races agreed with Grooms All Bizness, who pushed his career earnings to $318,775. Duarte worked with the winner's dam Bride to Be while with Colts Neck trainer Alan Goldberg and compared the two.

"He's been very consistent and she was ultra-consistent as well," he said. "We've had him his whole career, whole life, and that helps."

NOTES: Virginia-based trainer Madison Meyers lit up the tote board when **Desvio** won the second race, a $54,900 first-level allowance on the turf. Racing for Stonelea Stable and Bonnie Rye Stable, the 3-year-old gray gelding rallied from last of nine early to win by a length at nearly 39-1. Maryland-based trainer Jack Fisher, known more for steeplechase horses, finished second with St. John's to create a $217.10 exacta for a $1 ticket . . . Oaklawn Park-based **Frost Free** won the Chick Lang-G3 for Keene Thoroughbreds and trainer Brett Creighton, wiring seven foes as the favorite while picking up his third lifetime win and first in a stakes . . . The last time **Fluffy Socks** came to Maryland, bettors dismissed her at 6-1 and watched her unleash a stretch run to win the Selima Stakes in the third start of her life as a 2-year-old at Pimlico in 2020. Twenty-three starts later, she showed up as the 3-5 favorite in the Gallorette-G3 and dominated in a 7¾-length win. Irad Ortiz Jr. put the Chad Brown trainee fourth early, advanced to second on the turn and swept past late – her sixth lifetime win to go with nine seconds and four thirds while reaching $1,263,580 in lifetime earnings . . . Other stakes on Preakness Day went to **Super Chow** (Maryland Sprint-G3), and **Balnikhov (Ire)** in the Dinner Party-G3. ■

BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES

Hit Makers

LEWIS, HENNIG, HAGER TEAM UP WITH GUN SONG

By Tom Law

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

Gun Song (center, with John Velazquez looking for competition) leads everybody home in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes.

Mark Hennig felt like he needed some help.

The demands of balancing life, running a stable and trying to comb through hundreds if not thousands of yearlings and 2-year-olds in training – with only the help of his wife Rosemary Hennig – were proving difficult. Hennig connected with Kentucky-based bloodstock agent Phil Hager, who runs Taproot Bloodstock, and took a new approach that he thought longtime client Lee Lewis might be game to try.

"Last year, I told [Lewis] I had a bloodstock agent I wanted him to possibly team up with," Hennig said. "We had been trying to buy horses for him without any help and it was hard. You don't have the manpower. Rosemary and I, to look at all the horses at Keeneland, all the 2-year-olds in training, it's extremely hard.

"Phil has done a great job. . . we're off to a good start."

Good might be an undersell.

On May 17 at Pimlico Race Course, Hennig, Lewis and Hager hit a high point the three men aspired to but realistically knew might be difficult. Yet there they were on the winner's stand after Gun Song dominated seven opponents to win the 100th George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2.

John Velazquez rode the daughter of Gun Runner to a 3¼-length win over Southern California shipper Corposo, who finished a neck in front of Larry Johnson's Maryland-bred homebred Call Another Play. The 2-1 favorite off a fourth in the Gulfstream Park Oaks-G2 in her prior start, Gun Song won in 1:51.39 and gave Lewis a feeling of turning back the clock.

"It's here. It's like the Preakness for the fillies," Lewis said of what made the win so special. "Mark and I have such a long relationship. It's so wonderful to be back with Johnny, one of the closest jockey friends that I have and Mark is one of my best friends. It's more than the sport and winning the race.

"The race was absolutely heartfelt and tremendously gratifying, but being with Mark doing it was so special. He was with Wayne Lukas. Wayne trained for my father at Ruidoso, New Mexico. He was a hero I looked up to in horse racing. That's how I met Mark. We were close in age and we've become very close friends. Friendship is the one thing, his horse skills and abilities were second and as far as my feelings for him, we've stayed together ever since. We've gone through so much together. He lives in New York and I live in Texas and if I'm having a bad day or I need some personal wisdom, he's who I call."

During one of those calls, Hennig broached the subject of targeting the sales with the help of Hager.

A third-generation horseman who grew up on his family's Idle Hour Farm in Paris, Ky., Hager enjoyed a successful association with Kentucky's Crestwood Farm before going out on his own and also worked for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott, respected agent David Ingordo, Gainesway Farm, Eaton Sales and the Fasig-Tipton sales company. Hennig and Hager started looking for prospects for Lewis at the 2023 Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March sale of 2-year-olds, and continued through the year at the Keeneland September yearling sale.

Offered as Hip 727 out of the de Meric Sales consignment in Ocala, Gun Song caught Hager's attention for any number of reasons – her sire for sure, a furlong breeze in :10.1 and

dam Nicole H (who won 10 races, including eight stakes, and earned $811,144).

"Gun Runner, obviously," Hager said of the 2024 Hall of Fame inductee, Horse of the Year and last year's third leading North American sire. "And she's out of a really nice mare. The mare at the time had not really thrown much. She had five foals of racing age and didn't have a winner. But this filly worked well at the 2-year-old sale, was beautiful, by the right sire and we figured we'd take a shot." They spent $400,000.

Hager bought a colt out of the same sale, about a half hour after Gun Song went through the ring, going to $275,000 for a son of Collected out of the E Dubai mare One Too Many. Named Escondido, he finished fourth in his debut on the second day of the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga June 7.

> "It's cool when you're right, because as we all know, you're not always right."
>
> *– Bloodstock agent Phil Hager, after watching Gun Song win the Black-Eyed Susan*

He'll need to rally to match the feats of Gun Song.

Hager called the Black-Eyed Susan result "unbelievable."

"It's cool when you're right," he said, "because as we all know, you're not always right."

Never one to be wishy-washy in or out of the saddle, Velazquez felt he was right as the field for the 9-furlong Black-Eyed Susan left the starting gate.

Jeanne Marie broke best of the eight and took command past the finish post the first time as Velazquez set up shop just to her outside. Gun Song stayed there around the first turn and onto the backstretch, just ahead of the three-wide Corposo and Call Another Play down on the inside. Jeanne Marie clicked off the opening quarter-mile in :24.20 and by the time she hit the half-mile in :49.47, Gun Song was just about on even terms.

"They were going so slow," Velazquez said. "She got relaxed on the backstretch and we were going so slow, so that I was thinking that, hopefully, when I let her go I didn't choke her down."

Gun Song continued to ease up to Jeanne Marie midway around the far turn, past 6 furlongs in 1:13.66. Mychel Sanchez went to work on Jeanne Marie approaching the stretch as Velazquez took a look back without asking Gun Song for run. Yet.

"Once I put my hands down at the three-eighths pole, she was relaxed," Velazquez said. "When I asked her at the quarter pole, she responded nice to me. She just got tired last time out . . . I worked her last week, and I knew she was ready. I knew this time she was quite ready for it."

Fourth while stalking a faster pace in the Gulfstream Park Oaks March 30, Gun Song took over outside the three-sixteenths pole and opened up 3 lengths at the eighth pole. Velazquez kept busy on the chestnut filly from there, looking over his right shoulder and then his left inside the sixteenth pole with his whip put away.

"She's a horse that kind of waits, and I wanted to make sure to keep her mind running," Velazquez said. "She actually opened up. I didn't know she was going to open up that much, but she did it nicely. I thought it was going to be a much faster pace, but it didn't show up. So, that's why we inherited that pace, and it was pretty easy."

Hennig watched from the owners' box seats above the winner's circle and loved what he saw, despite what Velazquez called a slow pace.

"I was happy to see the way the pace unfolded," Hennig said. "I don't know, but I was anticipating more pressure from the outside. When we didn't get it – when I saw the three-quarters in 1:13 – I thought, that's two seconds faster than they just stopped going a sixteenth of a mile [longer in the Pimlico Special-G3 one race prior]."

Gun Song didn't fold from the pace, nor her trip in the two path the entire way around. She finished well clear at the finish in 1:51.39, winning for the third time in six starts and pushing her lifetime earnings to $311,340.

Bred in Kentucky by Marianne Stribling, Gun Song won her debut at Aqueduct in October, going 6 furlongs on a sloppy track, before placing in back-to-back allowances at 7 furlongs at Aqueduct and Gulfstream Park. She won a 1-mile allowance by 5¾ lengths Feb. 9 to earn a spot in the Gulfstream Park Oaks, where she broke out at the start, bumped a 74-1 rival, went wide into the first turn and even wider on the second turn and finished 7¾ lengths back in fourth.

JIM McCUE

Owner Lee Lewis (left) and assistant trainer Casey Hinsdale lead Gun Song toward the winner's circle at Pimlico.

Hennig felt like Gun Song deserved another shot in a stakes and breezed her once at Gulfstream before heading back to New York. She breezed twice more on the Belmont Park training track before the $300,000 Black-Eyed Susan. Velazquez was aboard for her 5-furlong bullet drill in 1:00.30 May 9.

"Turning for home I could see she was pretty strong," Hennig said. "Other than the last race, she always finishes very well. In my heart, I felt she was a good horse. I didn't have any doubts she was a good horse. I had a little doubt about the distance after the last race. But I didn't have enough doubt not to try this."

Gun Song, who returned three weeks later and finished eighth behind division leader Thorpedo Anna in the Acorn Stakes-G1 at Saratoga, gave Lewis and Hennig plenty of reason to think back more than three decades to winning on a big stage.

The two teamed to make the starting gate for the 1993 Kentucky Derby-G1 with Personal Hope. Winner of the Santa Anita Derby-G1 carrying Lewis' teal and blue colors, Personal Hope led turning for home before fading to fourth behind Sea Hero.

"He turned for home 2 in front. I have a picture at the quarter pole and he's sitting like this [takes motion like taking a big hold], Gary Stevens," Hennig said. "Sea Hero ran by him at the eighth pole and. . . we ended up fourth that day. Lee and I, after the race, we were watching Paul Mellon and Mack Miller get the trophy, I said, 'Well, those guys are old. They're 80-something years old. We've got all this time.'

"Lee said something about that today and I was like, 'Who knew? . . . but we're not in our 80s.' " ■

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.

Triple Play

DEVAUX WINS THREE STAKES IN PERFECT FRIDAY RUN

By Joe Clancy and Tom Law

Trainer Cherie DeVaux sat in the horsemen's box seats at Pimlico Race Course before the eighth race on Black-Eyed Susan Day, Friday, May 17.

"Hey," a Marylander said in greeting. "Welcome. How many races you going to win this weekend?"

"Five," the Kentucky-based DeVaux replied.

"Whoa, that's a flex."

"Wait, what did you ask me?"

"I asked you how many races you were going to win."

DeVaux laughed. "I thought you asked how many I was going to run."

She shipped six horses to Pimlico for Preakness Weekend. One got sick and had to scratch, leaving five runners.

DeVaux was confident, not that confident.

Then 4-5 shot Shotgun Hottie blitzed six rivals in the $100,000 Allaire duPont Distaff, the eighth race. One race later, 3-5 favorite She Feels Pretty made light work of the $100,000 Hilltop Stakes. The third DeVaux runner of the day, the 5-1 Pyrenees, kept the streak rolling with a stretch rally to win the $250,000 Pimlico Special-G3.

In a post-race interview, someone asked DeVaux the most stakes she'd won in a day.

"Uh, one," she deadpanned. "I've never won three races in a day, so we'll take this."

DeVaux's three Friday winners were well-spotted – the first two were odds-on and the other had won three in a row – but she didn't expect them all to win.

"You hope you come in here, the horses run their races and they come out sound and come out healthy," she said after Pyrenees won. "That's the most important part . . . It's one of those things you just have to let sink in. The prior two were heavy favorites. This was one I was really interested to see how he was going to do. It's really special to come here. We had six horses ship in. One didn't ship well so we had to scratch. It takes a lot of team effort. Our group at our base in Kentucky had horses shipping in all day today so they've been working and moving barns."

The streak stopped at three, as DeVaux's Saturday runners finished fourth and eighth, but was enough to give the trainer the $50,000 top prize in the Maryland Jockey Club's trainers' bonus program.

She finished with 34 points, four more than Steve Asmussen. To be eligible, trainers had to run a minimum of five horses in the 15 stakes during Preakness weekend. Points were accumulated for first (10), second (seven), third (five), fourth (three) and fifth through last (one). Maryland-based Mike Trombetta finished third with 28 points.

Shotgun Hottie came into the duPont off three losses this year – all in graded company including a fourth in the Apple Blossom-G1 at Oaklawn Park in April. Last year she won two stakes at Monmouth Park, the Lady's Secret and Molly Pitcher-G3 for Omar Aldabbagh and Jeff Ganje. Paco Lopez rode the daughter of Gun Runner at Pimlico and made it look easy in a 5¾-length romp.

"Paco does a great job of getting her to relax," DeVaux said. "A couple of her other races she's had a hard time. She comes out of the gate and she has a tendency to grab the bit and do too much coming into the first turn. You can't stop her and get her going again so it's really important to get her to relax behind the speed or on the outside and Paco does a great job."

JIM MCCUE

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB

JEFFREY SNYDER (2)

Trainer Cherie DeVaux won three races on Black-Eyed Susan Day with (clockwide from upper left) She Feels Pretty, Shotgun Hottie and Pyrenees. The success gave her the $50,000 top prize in the Maryland Jockey Club's trainers' bonus program.

Ganje paid $45,000 for Shotgun Hottie as a 2-year-old at Ocala Breeders' Sales Company in April 2021, and has been rewarded with six wins and $926,557 in earnings.

"I planned it that way," he said with a shrug. "I wish I had more like her. I bought her because she had this really long stride. I got the stride analysis, and she had the longest stride of anyone in that sale that day."

She Feels Pretty cost Lael Stable $240,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2022, and the daughter of Karakontie (Jpn) paid immediate dividends with a 2-year-old debut win in July at Ellis Park. She added Woodbine's Natalma Stakes-G1 in September and capped 2023 with a third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1. While looking for a 2024 debut, DeVaux targeted the 1-mile Hilltop over longer stakes on the calendar. She won by 5¾ lengths.

"This was probably a week or two early, but the distance was right," DeVaux said. "It would have been the Regret or the Wonder Again [stakes] and they're both 9 furlongs. Coming

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

The Very One was the first stakes victory for Larry Johnson's homebred Future Is Now, trained by Mike Trombetta.

off a layoff and doing something she hasn't done before wasn't ideal. You're just hoping she has a race we can move forward off and obviously she did."

While the two fillies figured to be competitive, DeVaux wasn't sure what to make of Pyrenees. Blue Heaven Farm's homebred lost all four starts, including a jockey-kicking debut, as a juvenile in 2022 and was off for nearly a year before he won a maiden special weight at Fair Grounds in December 2023. The son of Into Mischief opened 2024 with an allowance win at Fair Grounds in January, then added another at Keeneland in April. Talent was never the issue.

"He's been a challenge for us," DeVaux said. "Really immature . . . He trained like he had a lot in him, but always held some back so he was one of those horses. We were going to try blinkers, then he had a pretty significant injury and the layoff so we just regrouped with him and that's all we did. The key was to give him time."

In the $250,000 Special, run at the Preakness distance 1 3/16 miles, Pyrenees was content to let Harlocap and 7-10 favorite Kingsbarns handle the pace chores while drafting inside. Brian Hernandez got his charge off the rail at the five-sixteenths pole, went to the front in the stretch and won by three-quarters of a length. Kingsbarns finished second with Harlocap third.

"This was going to be a tough spot, but you've got to find out," said owner Adam Corndorf. "If you want to be the best you've got to beat the best. Obviously Kingsbarns is one serious horse, so we feel excited about things going forward. We don't even know what his ceiling is. Four in a row, let's go."

Future Is Now in The Very One

Mike Trombetta put an entry in for Future Is Now in the 5-furlong $100,000 The Very One Stakes and couldn't help but think back to last September.

"She loves this course," Trombetta said after Larry Johnson's homebred ran her record to 2-for-2 on the Pimlico turf. "She ran fast on it before and fast on it this time. You know how it is, some of them run well on certain tracks."

Future Is Now, who showed she didn't need her racetrack three weeks later with a victory in the $200,000 Intercontinental Stakes-G2 at Saratoga Race Course, relished the Pimlico course rated good. Third in the early stages behind Shoshanah and Bosserati, Future Is Now and Lopez rode the inside around the far turn before coming just off the rail in the lane. The 4-year-old Maryland-bred daughter of Great Notion ran on from there and finished 2¼ lengths clear of 22-1 longshot Shoshana with fellow Johnson homebred and Trombetta trainee Hollywood Walk a neck back in third at 28-1.

"She's been great; it's nice to get a stakes win for her on a big day like this," Trombetta said of Future Is Now, while also talking up Hollywood Walk. "And I actually liked the 28-1 shot horse, too, she was training lights out and we expected a big run from her."

Future Is Now won the The Very One after finishing fifth, beaten just 3½ lengths by Witty, against males in the King T. Leatherbury Stakes April 20 at Laurel Park. She finished a half-length back in second in the Captiva Island going 5 furlongs March 10 at Gulfstream Park prior to that effort. The win at Pimlico last September also came in a 5-furlong event, an allowance with a purse of $61,470.

"This was a big step up for her," Trombetta said. "To show up and come from off the pace like that, we're tickled to death."

NOTES: C2 Racing Stable's and Stefania Farms' **Mystic Lake** went to the front and stayed there through the 6 furlongs of the $150,000 Miss Preakness Stakes-G3. The 3-year-old Florida-bred daughter of Mo Town collected her first graded stakes with a 4½-length score over 2-1 favorite Youalmosthadme and 10 others. Trained by Saffie Joseph Jr. and ridden by Flavien Prat, Mystic Lake improved to 4-2-1 in nine starts . . . The Maryland Jockey Club reported a record Black-Eyed Susan Day handle total of $28.4 million. ■

When you're hot, you're ***HOT***

What a month for Graham Motion! From May 19 thru June 21: 38 starts, 3 SWs, 4 SPs, 16 wins, 4 seconds, 7 thirds. That's 42% wins, 71% WPS

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Grey Wizard – last to first in the Grade 2 Belmont Gold Cup on June 6 at Saratoga

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NEW JERSEY-BRED BOOK'EM DANNO PACES BANNER BELMONT FESTIVAL

By Tom Law ■ *Photographs by Walter Wlodarczyk*

The springtime show moved to upstate New York and runners bred in the Mid-Atlantic region showed up.

Led by Book'em Danno and Future Is Now, Mid-Atlantic-breds enjoyed a strong showing at the four-day Belmont Stakes Racing Festival at Saratoga Race Course June 6-9. By the time the 47 races were run – a tally that included 10 races restricted to New York-breds on the final day of the festival – Mid-Atlantic runners won a Grade 1 and a Grade 2, placed in three other Grade 1s and a Grade 2, won a listed stakes for 2-year-olds and placed in another listed stakes.

Atlantic Six Racing's New Jersey-bred gelding Book'em Danno won the $500,000 Woody Stephens Stakes-G1 on the Belmont Stakes Day undercard. Trained at Monmouth Park by Derek Ryan, the 3-year-old son of Bucchero returned from an almost four-month layoff to win the 7-furlong Woody Stephens by a half-length over favorite Prince of Monaco.

Jay Briscione, who heads up the Atlantic Six operation that consists of six friends from New Jersey, called the victory the highlight for the group that never had even started a horse at Saratoga.

"Besides getting married and having our kids, for all of us, nothing could compare to this," Briscione said. "We're very, very lucky. We know how hard it is to get a horse like this. Anybody that was in the game and thinking of getting out of the game, don't, because of him; and anybody thinking of getting in the game, do, because it happened to us and can happen to anybody."

Atlantic Six bought Book'em Danno privately from the gelding's co-breeder, Bright View Farm, as a yearling. Also co-bred by Greg Kilka, Book'em Danno gave his connections a thrill in defeat this winter when he was caught late and finished second to Japanese superstar and eventual Kentucky Derby-G1 third-place finisher Forever Young in the $1.5 million Saudi Derby-G3.

Ryan freshened Book'em Danno after the Saudi Derby – deliberately not giving into temptation of the Kentucky Derby trail – and pointed to a summer campaign, kicking off in the Woody Stephens. The 5-2 second choice behind Prince of Monaco, Book'em Danno opened up by 4 lengths in midstretch under Irad Ortiz Jr. and held on to win by a half-length in 1:21.30.

"He's got some pedigree to him," Ryan after winning his first Grade 1. "He's out of a real good mare. First foal was a stakes winner. He's just a racehorse. He's a cool horse. I get on him quite a bit myself. I galloped him here Thursday. I schooled him in the paddock. He just takes everything in. He's a cool horse. If I had 20 in the barn like him, I could retire soon. Unfortunately, he's my only one."

With help from bloodstock agent Chris Gracie, Kilka paid $14,000 for Book'em Danno's unraced dam Adorabella at Keeneland January in 2020. The Ghostzapper mare's New Jersey-bred Fast Anna filly born that April, Girl Trouble, sold for $15,000 as a yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale and has won five races (two stakes) and earned $288,540 for Swilcan Stable and LC Racing.

A partner in Bucchero during his racing career, Kilka sent his mare to the then-Florida-based stallion in 2020. The foal, Book'em Danno, sold privately and improved to 5-for-7 life-

time, with two seconds, and $835,625 in the bank. In 2022, Adorabella produced a Classic Empire colt, a $135,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic purchase by LC Racing last year. In foal Medaglia d'Oro, Adorabella brought $550,000 at Keeneland November on a bid by LC Racing.

Mid-Atlantic Belmont Round-up

Larry Johnson's Maryland-bred homebred Future Is Now led a 1-2 finish for the region with a narrow victory over Pennsylvania-bred Roses for Debra in the $200,000 Intercontinental Stakes-G2 on the June 7 card.

Trained by Mike Trombetta, Future Is Now added the 5½-furlong turf stakes to her victory three weeks earlier in the $100,000 The Very One Stakes at Pimlico. The 4-year-old daughter of Great Notion and the Bernardini mare Past as Prelude attended a quick pace of :21.76 and :44.24 before taking over in the lane. She rolled past 5 furlongs in :55.47 and won in 1:01.35.

"She just keeps getting better," Trombetta said. "She's going the right way. She's just evolving into a top-tier horse. I hope she'll be back for a race at Saratoga this summer. . . Winning a stake at Saratoga is really cool."

Book'em Danno streaks to victory in the Grade 1 Woody Stephens on the Belmont Stakes undercard, much to the delight of his connections in the winner's circle.

Maryland-bred Future is Now (center) digs in late to fight off Roses for Debra (left) and Kaufymaker in the Grade 2 Intercontinental.

The bay filly won her debut at Colonial Downs last August and added a Pimlico allowance in September. She won again at Gulfstream Park in February and returned to Maryland in time finish fifth against males in the King T. Leatherbury Stakes in April before the back-to-back stakes wins. Johnson bred Future Is Now's first three dams – Past as Prelude, Magical Meadow and Special Kell – after purchasing fourth dam Ran's Chick.

Johnson nearly pulled off every breeder's dream when Mindframe roared off the final turn with a big chance in the Belmont Stakes-G1. Making just his third start and stakes debut in the 1¼-mile classic, the Maryland-bred put his head in front of Dornoch in the stretch but drifted out under a left-handed whip from Irad Ortiz Jr. to lose ground before straightening up and digging in again to finish a half-length back in second.

"It's just his third start and first time at this distance. First time he's really been challenged; all the things we were concerned about," Pletcher said. "If he could have run a straight course down the lane, that would have been the difference. Irad felt like he just lost that little bit of focus. He was still coming at the end.

"It verifies what we thought of him," Pletcher added. "He showed so much talent in those two races [which he won by a combined 21¼ lengths] but now we had to test him and see where he fit with the big horses."

The son of Constitution, a $600,000 yearling purchase by Repole Stable and St. Elias Stables, hails from the same family as Future Is Now as Special Kell is the third dam of each.

Trombetta trains Future Is Now at Fair Hill, where he also prepped Arzak for his runner-up effort behind Cogburn in the $500,000 Jaipur Stakes-G1 on Belmont Day.

"Our local horses don't get this chance every day and it seems like everybody that came up did well," Trombetta said of the Mid-Atlantic contingent.

The success also included seconds in Grade 1 stakes for Post Time, a 4-year-old Maryland-bred son of Frosted, in the $1 million Metropolitan Handicap June 8; and Neecie Marie, a 4-year-old Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Cross Traffic, in the $750,000 New York Stakes June 7.

Bred by Tom, Chris and Brooke Bowman and the late Milton P. Higgins III and campaigned by Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable, Post Time won a three-way photo with Hoist the Gold and Castle Chaos for second in the Met Mile

and finished 6¼ lengths behind 2023 Preakness Stakes-G1 winner National Treasure.

"That was awesome," trainer Brittany Russell said of Post Time, also based at Fair Hill. "We are over the moon. I'm so excited. He showed up; he ran big. National Treasure ran a huge race. To run second behind him, that's a success for us."

Michael Milam's Neecie Marie, based at Parx Racing with Butch Reid, finished second at 25-1 behind Didia (Arg) in the 1 3/16-mile New York on the turf. Bred by Jon Marshall, Neecie Marie came into her Saratoga debut off a victory in the Beaugay Stakes-G3 at Aqueduct.

Reid also sent out LC Racing's homebred Ninetyprcent-maddie to finish second to Baby Yoda in the $350,000 True North-G2 to open the stakes portion of the Belmont Day card. The second-longest price on the board at 16-1, Ninetyprcentmaddie finished second in his fourth consecutive stakes going back to last November's City of Laurel won by Post Time. The 4-year-old gelding by Weigelia has placed in back-to-back graded stakes in New York.

The Mid-Atlantic haul started in the opening stakes of the festival when David Hughes' Studlydoright stormed from 8 lengths back through the opening quarter-mile to win the $150,000 Tremont Stakes for 2-year-olds.

A Maryland-bred son of Nyquist purchased for $110,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, Studlydoright improved to 2-for-2 for Laurel Park-based trainer Jerry Robb. He won by 1¾ lengths over Touchy in the 5½-furlong Tremont.

"Any time you win up here, it's great," Robb said. "It was special because it's a special weekend, We couldn't be happier."

Bred by James Dresher's Glenangus Farm, Studlydoright is the second foal out of the Maryland-bred Curlin mare Peach of a Gal, who won three times and placed in a Grade 3 for Glenangus. Her Maryland-bred dam Richetta won five races including the Maryland Million Lassie, Heaveny Cause and Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes in 2003.

The opening card of the festival also featured a solid performance by Gray Lightning, a Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Social Inclusion making her stakes debut. She finished second in the $145,000 Jersey Girl for 3-year-old fillies after leading early. Bred by Desmond Wynter and owned by NR Club, Gray Lightning is out of the winning Cat Thief mare Fairy Gray.

NOTES: Fair Hill-based trainer Graham Motion won the 2-mile Belmont Gold Cup-G2 turf stakes with The Grey Wizard (Ire) for owners Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and the Estate of Albert Frassetto June 6. A New Jersey racing fan who owned a concrete company, Frassetto got into racing in the 1960s when he would go to the track on rainy days – which aren't conducive to concrete pouring – and turned that interest into a racing/breeding stable in the United States and Europe. He died May 20 at age 87, leaving the stable management to sons John, Dominic and Christopher. As part of a sponsorship with the Victoria Racing Club, the victory earned The Grey Wizard an invitation to Australia's Melbourne Cup-G1 in November. "The amazing thing about it is that Al Frassetto, who was the co-owner, he was so passionate about international racing," said Motion. "I wish Al was here. He would have loved this." . . . New Jersey trainer Jorge Duarte picked up an allowance win with Colts Neck Stables' Subrogate early on the Belmont Stakes Day card. The 4-year-old Arrogate colt won for the second time in as many starts this year. ■

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Maryland-bred Studlydoright becomes the first Mid-Atlantic-bred 2-year-old stakes winner of 2024 with a victory in the Tremont Stakes.

Maryland-bred Mindframe (left) comes up a half-length short of Dornoch in the Belmont Stakes. He would have been the state's first Belmont winner since Caveat in 1983.

Striking Filly

WINCHELL TEAM LANDS SALES-TOPPER AT FASIG-TIPTON MAY

By Joe Clancy ■ *Fasig-Tipton Photos*

Buying 2-year-olds at auction is not croquet, but the approach taken by Winchell Thoroughbreds recently might sound like a high-stakes round of the backyard game.

Only with horses and opinions.

"When you put up all these wickets, it's hard to get a horse through all of them," said Greg Pachman, part of the Winchell team at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's juvenile sale at Timonium, Md., May 20-21. "I'm a fan of that. I think we should have a ton of wickets. That's how you find the good ones and give yourself the best chance to succeed."

The Winchell wickets involve the experience, knowledge, data and opinions of owner Ron Winchell, Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen, racing/bloodstock manager David Fiske, the Equine Analysis Systems firm of Dr. David Lambert and staffer Andreu Solis, Pachman and others involved in the decision-making process.

When they all agree on a horse – and the opinions make it through the wickets – it's time to bid.

"We have a lot of opinions and when they match up, we'll go after the horse," said Pachman. "We have a team we put together and if we land on the same horse then Ron will go after it. If not, and we end up not getting anything, that's OK."

The approach isn't all that different, but is more targeted.

"We're trying to be a little more surgical about it," said Fiske. "I described it to somebody that it's like putting $2 to win on five horses or $10 to win on one. You might lose all the bets, but the reward is going to be a little bit better if you win the $10 one. It's about maximizing returns."

Pachman, Fiske and company attended sales in Florida in March and April, but left empty-handed. At Timonium, they purchased the sales-topper in a $1.25 million filly by Bolt d'Oro out of the Arch mare Werewolf. Not that it was easy. The bay Kentucky-bred passed plenty of tests at Timonium, breezed a furlong in :10 and carried a pedigree boosted by three previous winners from three foals (two of them stakes winners) from her dam.

The Bolt d'Oro filly stretches through her breeze at Timonium before bringing a sales-topping $1.25 million.

"The data was good, the analysis of her shape, heart scan, genetics were very, very good," said Pachman. "Steve really liked her. His opinion is important. Dave had run the pedigree and thought there was going to be residual value in the horse too as a broodmare. Andreu Solis was on the ground at Timonium so give him a lot of credit too. It's a lot of work.

"It's rare that we all land on a horse. Sometimes the data is good, or the pedigree isn't good enough or somebody doesn't like the horse."

Pachman figured the filly would be expensive, and wasn't sure she'd make it into the Winchell fold.

"I had an initial idea what I thought she would go for and I spoke to Ron in the morning and he said, 'I think there's more people on her than you think,' " said Pachman. "He said we were going to go for her, but I wasn't sure it was going to be enough. Steve and Ron handled that part. I was just a bystander at that point."

Consigned by Ciaran and Amy Dunne's Wavertree Stables and bred in Kentucky by Springhouse Farm, the filly turned into a pinhooking score after bringing $335,000 from Havertz Bloodstock as a yearling at Keeneland September. She powered the Wavertree consignment to the top of the list at $3,743,000 in gross sales. The Florida-based operation put three horses in the top five and sold all but one of its 13 horses at the sale.

The Winchell approach reflects somewhat of a shift from high-volume sales additions to focus on a mix homebreds

Trainer Steve Asmussen (left) and Winchell Thoroughbreds advisor Greg Pachman compare notes after the purchase.

SALES LEADERS

Fillies

$1,250,000. B.f. Bolt d'Oro—Werewolf, by Arch (Ky.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agt. XIV; Winchell Thoroughbreds.

$650,000. Dk.b./br.f. Bernardini—Rubies Are Red, by Medaglia d'Oro (Ky.); Crane Thoroughbred Services, agt.; KAS Stables, Pedro Lanz, agt.

$525,000. B.f. Practical Joke—Aunt Dorothy, by Uncle Mo (Ky.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agt. XV; Case Clay Thoroughbred Management.

$500,000. Ch.f. Justify—Mia Karina, by Jazil (Ky.); SGV Thoroughbreds (Steven Venosa), agt.; Case Clay Thoroughbred Management.

$450,000. B.f. Bolt d'Oro—Final Reward, by Arch (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; My Racehorse and Marquee Bloodstock.

$400,000. Ch.f. Munnings—Gold Medal Dancer, by Medaglia d'Oro (Ky.); Tom McCrocklin, agt.; Lael Stable.

$325,000. B.f. Mitole—Tizjet, by Tiznow (N.Y.); Grassroots Training and Sales, agt.; KSI.

$310,000. Ch.f. Echo Town—Country Cafe, by Lion Heart (Ky.); Paul Sharp, agt. I; Flurry Racing Stables.

$300,000. B.f. Authentic—Truly Gifted, by Afleet Alex (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Dennis O'Neill.

$300,000. B.f. Gun Runner—Sister Dawn, by Indian Charlie (Ky.); Pike Racing at Highlander, agt. VI; Taproot Bloodstock, agt.

Colts

$650,000. B.c. Maclean's Music—Two Faced Moon, by Malibu Moon (Ky.); Eddie Woods, agt. LI; Najd Stud.

$525,000. Ch.c. Good Magic—Mellonbrook, by Discreet Cat (Ky.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agt. VII; KSI.

$500,000. B.c. Curlin—America's Starlet, by Concord Point (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Imagine, Donato Lanni, agt.

$475,000. B.c. Practical Joke—Cry Uncle, by Uncle Mo (Ont.); De Meric Sales, agt.; Muir Hut Stables.

$425,000. Ch.c. Justify—Weekend Strike, by Smart Strike (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds,, agt.; KAS Stables, Pedro Lanz, agt.

$400,000. B.c. Blame—Silent Bond, by Medaglia d'Oro (Ky.); Top Line Sales, agt. XXXI; Dennis O'Neill.

$400,000. Dk.b./br.c. Vekoma—Lightning Twice, by Malibu Moon (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; J.A.S.

$400,000. B.c. Good Magic—Ceeme Run Wild, by Tiznow (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agt.; Spendthrift Farm.

$350,000. Ch.c. Vekoma—Scion Power, by Wildcat Heir (Fla.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agt. XII; Flurry Racing Stables.

$350,000. B.c. Laoban—Crafty's Dream, by Bodemeister (Ky.); Crane Thoroughbred Services, agt.; Mag Racing, Greg Compton, agt.

$350,000. B.c. Authentic—Gomo, by Uncle Mo (Fla.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agt.; Robert & Lowana Low, West Bloodstock, agt.

$325,000. B.c. Medaglia d'Oro—Redemption Day, by Quality Road (Ky.); Randy Miles, agt. XII; Bhupat Seemar.

$300,000. Dk.b./br.c. Omaha Beach—Wonderfuladventure, by Tiz Wonderful (Ky.); Top Line Sales, agt. XXVI; Blinkers On Racing Stable.

$300,000. B.c. Practical Joke—Proud Indian, by Indian Charlie (Ky.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agt. X; My Racehorse and Peter Leidel.

(some by Winchell-raced stallions Tapit and Gun Runner among others) and more specific sales purchases.

"He's got a lot of stallion power now and has expanded a certain amount to cover them," said Pachman, who borrowed a Fiske phrase by calling Winchell's operation "a big little farm" or maybe "a little big farm." Regardless, Winchell punches up when it comes to producing talented racehorses and finding a spot among the national leaders – fourth by earnings in 2022, fifth in 2023 and sixth so far this year. In addition to 2024 Hall of Fame inductee and rising stallion star Gun Runner, recent stable standouts include champions Epicenter and Untapable, Grade 1 winners Silver State, Gunite and Tapizar, New York-bred star Bankit and plenty of others.

"We've always run about 50/50 homebreds to purchases and the success seems to be split pretty much 50/50 too," said Fiske. "We haven't done anything that different – we've got Equine Analysis and Dr. Lambert's data, we have Greg on board which will help, we have Steve's impression. There haven't been that many this year that seemed to check all the boxes and she checked about a million and 250 thousand of them."

This year marked the 10th consecutive May sale with a seven-figure horse and the fourth consecutive with gross sales above $30 million at $32,921,500. The $95,425 average set a record as 345 horses sold from an initial catalog and addendum of 585 and 414 offered in the ring.

Timonium's May date, coinciding with the Preakness Week racing at nearby Pimlico Race Course, continues to find strong footing with buyers and sellers as the sales schedule changed over the last several years. Fasig-Tipton hasn't scheduled its March juvenile sale at Florida's Gulfstream Park the last two years (and canceled it in 2020 due to Covid), and Keeneland last hosted its April 2-year-old specific sale in 2019 (though a few were part of a racing-age sale this year), pushing horses to Florida's OBS in March and April or Timonium in May and June.

"Closing that boutique Fasig-Tipton sale changed the landscape and raised the level of horse that ends up at

> "There haven't been that many this year that seemed to check all the boxes and she checked about a million and 250 thousand of them"
>
> *– Winchell Thoroughbreds' David Fiske, about the sales-topper*

PINHOOKERS' SCORECARD

Horses who sold for $200,000 or more, and exceeded their previous auction selling prices by at least $100,000:

$1,250,000 B.f. Bolt d'Oro—Werewolf, by Arch. *kee sept 23 $335,000*
$525,000 B.f. Practical Joke—Aunt Dorothy, by Uncle Mo. *kee sept 23 $160,000*
$525,000 Ch.c. Good Magic—Mellonbrook, by Discreet Cat. *ftk oct 23 $220,000*
$500,000 Ch.f. Justify—Mia Karina, by Jazil. *ftk jul 23 $230,000*
$475,000 B.c. Practical Joke—Cry Uncle, by Uncle Mo. *kee sept 23 $150,000*
$450,000 B.f. Bolt d'Oro—Final Reward, by Arch. *obs oct 23 $135,000*
$425,000 Ch.c. Justify—Weekend Strike, by Smart Strike. *kee sept 23 $200,000*
$400,000 Dk.b./br.c. Vekoma—Lightning Twice, by Malibu Moon. *kee sept 23 $17,000*
$400,000 B.c. Blame—Silent Bond, by Medaglia d'Oro. *kee sept 23 $95,000*
$400,000 B.c. Good Magic—Ceeme Run Wild, by Tiznow. *ftk oct 23 $100,000*
$350,000 B.c. Laoban—Crafty's Dream, by Bodemeister. *kee jan 23 $50,000*
$350,000 Ch.c. Vekoma—Scion Power, by Wildcat Heir. *ftk jul 23 $175,000*
$325,000 B.f. Mitole—Tizjet, by Tiznow. *sar aug 23 $25,000*
$325,000 B.c. Medaglia d'Oro—Redemption Day, by Quality Road. kee *sept 23 $75,000*
$310,000 Ch.f. Echo Town—Country Cafe, by Lion Heart. *ftk oct 23 $150,000*
$300,000 Dk.b./br.c. Omaha Beach—Wonderfuladventure, by Tiz Wonderful. *kee sept 23 $75,000*
$300,000 B.c. Practical Joke—Proud Indian, by Indian Charlie. *kee sept 23 $150,000*
$295,000 B.f. Liam's Map—Estoril, by Into Mischief. *ftk feb 23 $65,000*
$280,000 Ch.c. Volatile—Scat's Lassie, by Scat Daddy. *sar aug 23 $50,000*
$270,000 B.f. Practical Joke—Ballette (Ire), by Giant's Causeway. *ftk oct 23 $60,000*
$260,000 Dk.b./br.c. Authentic—Jeannie S, by Sky Mesa. *obs apr 24 $150,000*
$250,000 Gr./ro.c. Volatile—Lexington Girl, by Storm Cat. *ftk oct 23 $27,000*
$250,000 B.c. Alternation—Room For Aptitude, by Aptitude. *kee sept 23 $37,000*
$250,000 Ch.c. Lord Nelson—Catching Diamonds, by Into Mischief. *kee nov 22 $100,000*
$230,000 Dk.b./br.f. Practical Joke—Kissin Kim, by Yes It's True. *kee sept 23 $125,000*
$215,000 B.f. Bernardini—Honey Graeme, by Graeme Hall. *kee sept 23 $50,000*
$200,000 Ch.f. The Big Beast—Spring Included, by Include. *obs oct 23 $35,000*
$200,000 B.f. Honor A. P.—Miss Drake, by Afleet Alex. *ftk jul 23 $50,000*
$200,000 Gr./ro.c. Volatile—Tell Me Why, by Corinthian. *ftk oct 23 $70,000*
$200,000 Ch.c. Vekoma—Super Divine, by Divine Park. *kee sept 23 $90,000*

> "She came to Pennsylvania at Christmas, what a good Christmas present … Boy oh boy, her physical, she was just outstanding, and allowed us to do everything we wanted to."
>
> *– Consignor Clovis Crane, about the $650,000 Bernardini filly*

Timonium," said Pachman. "There was a moment where we were deciding whether to go to Timonium. It's become a really good sale, an OBS level sale in the north. We didn't want to miss it because good horses have come out of there."

The Bolt d'Oro filly, named Wicked One and enjoying some down time with Becky Maker in mid-June, gets a chance to join them.

Around the Horn

As it did a year earlier, the sale began somewhat cautiously as the Monday session averaged $92,690 on gross receipts of $13,162,000 before finding its footing – and powerhouse numbers – on the second day.

Early fireworks came from Hip 276, a Bernardini filly purchased by Pedro Lanz as agent for KAS Stables for $650,000. Consigned by Joanna and Clovis Crane's Crane Thoroughbreds, the dark bay breezed a furlong in :10 but also brought pedigree and presence. Her dam, Rubies Are Red, is a half-sister to leading sire Tapit and from the family of Grade 2 winner Madefromlucky, Eclipse Award winner Rubiano, classic winner Summer Bird and others. On sales day, she stood in the ring and stared down would-be new owners as bids bounced around the pavilion live, on the telephone and via the internet.

Clovis Crane watched it all and smiled, as the filly helped prove that a Mid-Atlantic consignor can compete with farms in Florida and elsewhere.

"We can make it work," said Crane, whose past pupils include 2023 champion 3-year-old Arcangelo. "She came to Pennsylvania at Christmas, what a good Christmas present. We have a 120 by 200 [foot] indoor so if it's nasty weather we can train inside and it makes a hell of a difference. We never train on a bad track."

Crane clients Rusty Roberts and Robert Garrett purchased the filly, since named Mazayaat, privately after she

THE NUMBERS

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2024	2023
Offered	414	437
Sold	345	375
Not sold	16.7%	14.2%
Gross	$32,921,500	$34,795,500
Average	$95,425 (+2.8%)	$92,788
Median	$50,000	$50,000

LEADING BUYERS

KAS Stables (Pedro Lanz, agt.) (3)	$1,275,000
Winchell Thoroughbreds (1)	1,250,000
Case Clay Thoroughbred Management (2)	1,025,000
KSI (2)	850,000
Flurry Racing Stables (3)	840,000
Bhupat Seemar (4)	815,000
Dennis O'Neill (3)	775,000
Najd Stud (1)	650,000
Taproot Bloodstock, agt. (3)	620,000
MAG Racing (Greg Compton, agt.) (3)	500,000
Imagine (Donato Lanni, agt.) (1)	500,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Bolt d'Oro (10)	$2,265,000
Practical Joke (10)	2,135,000
Maclean's Music (12)	1,913,000
Authentic (9)	1,398,000
Good Magic (6)	1,368,000
Volatile (10)	1,362,500
Vekoma (8)	1,337,000
Justify (3)	960,000
Bernardini (4)	923,000
Honest Mischief (7)	759,000

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Justify (3)	$320,000
Bernardini (4)	230,750
Good Magic (6)	228,000
Bolt d'Oro (10)	226,500
Practical Joke (10)	213,500
Omaha Beach (3)	188,333
Munnings (4)	170,000
Vekoma (8)	167,125
Maclean's Music (12)	159,417
Authentic (9)	155,333

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Wavertree Stables (13)	$3,743,000
De Meric Sales (16)	2,980,000
Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds (10)	2,663,000
Pike Racing at Highlander (10)	1,590,000
Crane Thoroughbred Services (11)	1,564,500
Pick View (17)	1,517,500
Grassroots Training and Sales (25)	1,500,000
Tom McCrocklin (23)	1,495,000
Top Line Sales (12)	1,143,500
Sequel Bloodstock (9)	925,000

Average (3 or more sold)

Wavertree Stables (13)	$287,923
Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds (10)	266,300
SGV Thoroughbreds (3)	233,333
De Meric Sales (16)	186,250
Pike Racing at Highlander (10)	159,000
Crane Thoroughbred Services (11)	142,227
Hidden Brook (4)	116,250
Randy Miles (8)	114,375
Sequel Bloodstock (9)	102,778
Top Line Sales (12)	95,292

Joanna Crane helps put the finishing touches on Hip 276, a Bernardini filly who sold for $650,000.

failed to meet her reserve on a bid of $200,000 at Keeneland September last year.

"They've been selling with other consignors and they gave me a shot this year," Crane said. "The most important day with these horses, in my opinion, is the day that you buy them. You have to get them in your stable and let the rest of it unfold.

"Boy oh boy, her physical, she was just outstanding, and allowed us to do everything we wanted to."

Lanz agreed with Crane's assessment and called her pedigree a bonus.

"When I'm buying 2-year-olds I start on the track," he said. "Then I see who is the horse by. This horse could have been by anybody, and it wouldn't have mattered. She's the whole package. Breeze, pedigree, physical, clean also. She vetted super, a stunning filly. She has a presence when you see her walking. I looked at her several times and took a lot of videos. I was telling them all week that we have a monster."

Lanz bought three for the Saudi Arabia-based KAS, adding a $425,000 Justify colt and a $200,000 Volatile colt. Middle Eastern buyers were a force at the sale with Dubai World Cup-winning trainer Bhupat Seemar purchasing four in his name and three others as an agent for clients. A $325,000 Medaglia d'Oro colt topped the list price-wise.

Saudi-based NAJD Stud bought a $650,000 Maclean's Music colt, the sale's co-second highest price with the Bernardini filly. Kentuckian Case Clay shopped Timonium for Qatari-based Wathnan Racing and landed a $500,000 Justify filly on the first day and a $525,000 Practical Joke filly on the second.

"It's great to have a dirt track at Timonium," Clay said. "The synthetic track at OBS is great but it's nice to have some variety with breezes on the dirt to see if you can find a little bit of separation – it's just a little different. This time of year, hopefully the heavy, heavy hitters have already bought some and you can find horses. But the heavy, heavy hitters are very good. We all know that."

Regional-bred horses competed for attention with Kentucky-breds, but several made impressions.

Highest-priced Pennsylvania-bred was Hip 345, a More Than Ready filly bred by Blackstone Farm.

Three Pennsylvania-breds, all bred by Blackstone Farm, reached six figures including a $180,000 More Than Ready filly out of the Bernardini mare Sweet Promises who breezed a quarter-mile in :21.3. Burger Racing made the purchase from the Crane consignment and named her More of That Pleez. A Bolt d'Oro filly since named Our Lady sold for $160,000 to JDLP Holdings and was breezing at Canada's Woodbine Racetrack a month after the sale. She sold for $75,000 as a yearling in February 2023. An Honor A. P. filly out of 2011 Selima Stakes winner Softly Lit brought $110,000 on a bid by LC Racing.

Hip 425, a Good Magic colt out of the Bernardini mare Adorina sold for $120,000 to top all Maryland-breds. Consigned by Grassroots Training and Racing, the bay colt

Ten-year figures for 2-year-old sale

Year	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2024	$32,921,500	$95,425	345	16.7	$1,250,000, b.f. Bolt d'Oro—Werewolf, by Arch; consigned by Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agent; purchased by Winchell Thoroughbreds.
2023	$34,795,500	$92,788	375	14.2	$1,000,000 Nuit Magique, ch.f. Arrogate—Twixy, by Mutakddim; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Kerri Radcliffe, agent.
2022	$37,297,700	$95,391	391	18.9	$3,550,000* Hejazi, dk.b./br.c. Bernardini—G Note, by Medaglia d'Oro; consigned by Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent; purchased by Zedan Racing, Gary Young, agent.
2021	$33,692,000	$94,375	357	16.2	$1,500,000 Vinco, dk.b./br.c. Quality Road—Stormy Welcome, by Storm Cat; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent X; purchased by West Point Thoroughbreds/L.E.B., agent.
2020	$23,572,500	$77,797	303	19.2	$1,100,000 Shaaz, dk.b./br.c. Uncle Mo—Miss Ocean City, by Mineshaft; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent.
2019	$29,374,000	$90,104	326	23.3	$1,800,000 Gamine, b.f. Into Mischief—Peggy Jane, by Kafwain; consigned by Bobby Dodd, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent.
2018	$24,868,500	$74,680	333	22.6	$1,200,000 Lebron J, b.c. Medaglia d'Oro—Tapicat, by Tapit; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Dennis O'Neill.
2017	$25,237,000	$76,476	330	19.9	$1,500,000 Curlin's Honor, ch.c. Curlin—Franscat, by Stormin Fever; consigned by Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Breeze Easy and John Oxley
2016	$23,136,400	$68,654	337	25.9	$1,000,000 Modest Maven, dk.b./br.f. Uncle Mo—Dream Street, by Tale of the Cat; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Chester Broman, Linda Rice, agent.
2015	$22,659,000	$88,859	255	21.5	$1,250,000 Garnet, b.f. Smart Strike—Crystal Current, by A.P. Indy; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXIX; purchased by Ben McElroy, agent.

** The highest-priced horse sold at public auction in Maryland.*

Hip 425, a Good Magic colt, speeds through a breeze before topping all Maryland-breds at $120,000.

is out of a half-sister to stakes winners Icabad Crane and Our Golden Dream. Bowman and Higgins Stable bought Adorina at Keeneland November in 2021 and sold the Good Magic foal for $47,000 as a yearling. Saudi prince Saud bin Salman made the purchase.

Regional owner/breeder Larry Johnson bought Hip 434, a Maryland-bred half-brother to regional stakes winners Street Lute and Alottahope, for $95,000. Wes Carter consigned the chestnut, a $30,000 purchase as a yearling in 2023. At Keeneland January, Johnson added Street Lute to his broodmare band for $200,000.

Maryland stallion Uncle Lino was represented by the $95,000 sale of a Maryland-bred colt out of the Trappe Shot mare Rosie Belle. Fast Horses sold the chestnut to July Johnson after purchasing him for $7,500 as a yearling.

Ben Gowans and Gracie Bloodstock bought Hip 387, a $95,000 West Virginia-bred filly by Unified out of the Windsor Castle mare Uptown Tuffy. The dark bay is out of a half-sister to West Virginia-bred star Lucy's Bob Boy.

Virginia consignor Ballyerin Racing sold all four of its entries, putting up an average of $85,000. An Audible filly out of the Scat Daddy mare Daddy's Diva showed the way at $150,000. Oracle Bloodstock bought the dark bay, whose dam is a half-sister to stakes winner Empire of Gold, from breeder Respect the Valleys.

In addition to the $650,000 Bernardini filly, Crane sold 10 others including three more in six figures for an average of $142,227. A Laoban colt out of the Bodemeister mare Crafty's Dream went for $350,000 to Greg Compton as agent for MAG Racing. The $50,000 yearling purchase is from the family of Grade 1 winner Giant Oak among others. ■

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— Loose Rein —

BY VINNIE PERRONE

Day at the Preakness fills a bucket

Three golfing buddies on the back nine of life each made a bucket list, compared entries, found a shared item. On May 17, a Friday, they drove 350 miles from Connecticut to Baltimore to check the box in common – the 149th Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course.

Bucket-listers Hen, P Squared and Franny arrived Preakness Eve at an Inner Harbor hotel with coolers of Italian delicacies, bottles of red wine and varied racetrack insights. Franny had tales from Saratoga and Del Mar, but none since the *Daily Racing Form* scrapped its broadsheet. Hen, obsessed over Secretariat's Triple Crown doings, had tasted just a single day at the races. P Squared, a racetrack maiden, relished the coming graduation.

You'll relish it more after tomorrow's second race, came a Preakness Eve pronouncement, once a longshot delivers.

"Already paid off," Franny advised. "Hen drove us here without a mishap."

Arrangements leaning on a 9:45 a.m. pickup for the 10:30 opener, Hen said he'd phone Preakness morning to confirm the time.

Word of coming rain dampened nothing. "Tomorrow'll be a day to remember," P Squared excitedly announced, "weather or not."

The novice had handicapped it well, as events of Saturday, May 18, would reveal.

9:58 a.m.: Hen phones to report a delayed departure for reasons involving a rollaway bed, a missing shoe and a breakfast incident at a nearby diner. He offers no specifics.

11:07: Pickup made, the drizzly drive north on I-83 begs no urgency, the second race about to go. P Squared asks about the un-backed longshot. Offspring of his Japanese sire, Yoshida, win at 28 percent on soft turf, he's told. "Speaking of soft grass," Franny announces from the backseat, "anybody want a gummy?"

11:24: Near the Pimlico grounds, a few people stand around a man lying on a sidewalk. "Uh-oh," Hen utters, not for the roadside drama; his eyes are down at his phone. "What was the name of that longshot?" Hen asks. Desvio. He makes with a sideways wince. "He won and paid $79.40."

11:43: On the grandstand apron, a sixteenth-mile from the finish, the seats of assigned plastic chairs puddle with rainwater. "Go find Wiggy with the towel," one fashionista says over her lime-graced cocktail. Wiggy's absence does nothing to dampen the bucket-listers' utter jubilation at having made the scene. As they raise Black-Eyed Susan glasses for a celebratory toast, P Squared eyes the rain-dancing drinks and says, "Black-Eyed Sallies – with a splash!"

12:10 p.m.: After a bugle summons the Skipat Stakes, Hen asks about the ability of Flavien Prat, Swall's jockey. "I'd be careful," Franny advises. "Prat is an anagram for Trap." Hen ignores him, bets to win. Swall finishes second at 7-2.

12:48: "I like the gray horses," P Squared offers as The Amazing Mizzen gallops past in the fifth-race warmup. "No surprise," Franny responds. "Gray matches your personality."

1:03: After The Amazing Mizzen rallies for a mud-splattered third, and P Squared vocally questions his win-place strategy, Hen says, "No wonder you lost. That gray horse turned brown."

1:26: P Squared bets the gray longshot Classic Joke in the Chick Lang Stakes.

1:36: Gray favorite Frost Free wins the Chick Lang.

1:57: A young couple struts the second-floor grandstand, he in a seersucker suit and straw Panama hat, she in a yellow chiffon dress and black organza hat topped with a miniature Woodlawn Vase replica. Franny works a subtle nod toward the passing couple. "Now THAT'S a trophy wife."

2:39: No program jockey listed for Super Chow in the Maryland Sprint, P Squared wonders how the horse will do without a rider.

3:00: Hen and Franny cash win bets on Super Chow, who pays $10.40 with no-name jockey Javier Castellano.

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

3:17: A stroll toward the saddling paddock brings the conversation to horse identification and the trend to replace lip tattoos with digital ones through microchipping. "It may be more efficient," Franny offers, "but it won't catch early signs of gingivitis."

3:21: "I see 'fuel' in Fulmineo," Franny exclaims before the James W. Murphy Stakes.

3:39: Fulmineo wins for Franny and pays $6.60.

3:48: Hen marvels at the super-styled women and men sashaying everywhere. "It's like an all-day fashion show," he says, blotting a mustard stain from his shopworn navy-blue pullover.

4:04: A makeshift haberdashery in Pimlico's first-floor grandstand displays elaborate ladies' hats, colorful and varied, and more-traditional men's summer toppers. Salesperson Vanessa Carter, in a magenta-sequined fedora, reports "booming" business on demand for women's fascinator hats, named for the discreet plastic headbands that secure them. A question follows: Shouldn't it be spelled fasten-ator? A female customer in a multi-feathered hat says, "Only if you want to spell it wrong."

4:55: Near the hat stand, behind a plastic boxwood hedge, numerologist Steve Kornacki finishes an analysis for NBC's Preakness telecast and dashes to a nearby $50 window. Waiting in line, he shakes hands with passersby, happily agrees to cellphone photos, yucks it up with strangers.

5:06: Kornacki considers the question only briefly. His first-ever visit to a racetrack: Maine's Scarborough Downs harness track, 1986, at age 7. Uncle Joe took him. While the horses impressed, the sea of program data dazzled. "There was something about the numbers," Kornacki says, and something about his expression that says the numbers 1-11-6 don't dress his tickets after Grooms All Bizness wins the Jim McKay Turf Sprint at 5-1.

6:11: Two and half hours since anyone cashed, the bucket-listers are reminded of a trackside quip: The best thing in the world is a winning day at the races, followed closely by a losing day at the races. Hen merrily hoists a beer: "I'll drink to that."

6:40: As eight Preakness horses reach the turf course for saddling, an emerging sunbeam bathes the principals. "I think it's a sign," Hen declares. "You're right," Franny answers. "It means the clouds have parted."

6:43: "That horse has kick," P Squared observes after longshot Mugatu bucks and bucks again in the saddling area.

6:56: With Seize the Gray primed and eager in the Preakness post parade, P Squared is reminded of his last chance to play a gray – a wise-guy horse at that. P Squared intently watches all the starters gallop by, then goes inside to wager.

7:04: Gate-loading begins. "I can't believe it's here," Hen marvels. "A dream no more," Franny waxes. "What'd I do with my tickets?" P Squared asks, patting every pocket.

7:07: Around the muddy track, Seize the Grey leaves the far turn with the lead, holds firm through the homestretch as shouts of, 'You got it, P Squared!' and 'He's home!' augment the Pimlico roars. Seize the Grey has 9-1 odds and a clear lead at the finish. P Squared holds his tickets and a blank expression. "I didn't play him."

7:08: P Squared explains that he backed Tuscan Gold for a planned trip to Italy in 2025. "Say arrivederci to your tickets then," Franny tells him.

7:23: Apprised of the promised renovations to Pimlico under state control, Franny says, "As a traditionalist, I hate to see it. As a realist, I hope it gets a better facelift than Meg Ryan."

7:55: The bucket-listers eagerly watch the 14th-race finale, take one last look about Old Hilltop. "I feel like the luckiest guy never to cash a ticket," P Squared says on the walk out. "A day for the ages," Franny posits. Hen, holding open an exit door, ends it with a question: "Can we do this again tomorrow?" ■

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

Every Picture Tells a Story

When you attend horse auctions the one thing you get used to is the boredom of waiting around for the sale of a particular horse in which you have an interest as either a buyer or a seller. Sales proceed at a rather stately pace of about 30 horses per hour and 300 or so horses will be sold in a daily session.

Sometimes during the long breaks between horses of interest, after you've caught up with the friends you haven't seen since the last sale, there is nothing to do but sit in the pavilion, watch horses sell and listen to the announcer and the auctioneer ply their trade.

In those intervals I often think about how – unlike other livestock often sold by the pound or in anonymous groups – at a Thoroughbred auction, each horse is led into the ring individually and has a little story told about his or her family and upbringing. Thoroughbred horses, by and large, aren't fungible but are treated as unique individuals and they all have stories to tell.

Usually, at least part comes in the announcer's spiel and on the catalog page but, as has often been stated, the sales company works for the seller and the information provided only reflects the positive part of the story. With rare exception, previous illness, injury and defects of temperament are left up to the bidders' due diligence. Cribbers must be announced and prior major surgeries require a notation buried in the repository where only the most diligent will find them. Other than that, it's "caveat emptor."

During the brief time I practiced law, one of my clients was the Unionville, Pa., horse dealer Vince Dugan. He is semi-retired but in those days, he sold an awful lot of horses. Inevitably, there would be disagreements over horses he bought or sold. His theory was that it wasn't his job to protect buyers from their foolishness or stupidity. I never knew him to lie about a horse but I, also, never knew him to volunteer information not specifically requested. I carried this lesson with me into the bloodstock business.

Some years after I had abandoned the law for the horse business, we had a neighbor, Josie Taylor, who was a fox-hunting lady of a certain age. She called me one day about selling a horse for her. The horse was a big, dappled, gray Thoroughbred who really filled the eye when led out of his stall. Josie had been getting on him from a mounting block and as she swung her leg over, he had swished his tail and the tail had caught in her spur and the resulting panic landed Josie in the hospital.

Being of a certain age, she felt that, although it was a freak accident, she didn't want to keep this horse around to remind her of her injuries. Could I take him to Timonium and sell him in the older horse section of the December sale? As stated, he was a big, good-looking, gray gelding and he was still wearing most of his dapples. I could certainly do that.

In those days, before the influx of Warmbloods into the horse-show world, show-hunter people combed the racing-age sales at Belmont, Saratoga and Timonium looking for attractive, lightly-raced young horses they could buy for under $5,000, put a few months into and sell for a profit. Often, the horses were not sound enough to keep racing but were perfectly suitable for the less-grueling world of the horse shows. There was no vetting at sales in those days, so it really was buyer beware.

Most everyone is familiar with the "grade horse" sale at New Holland, Pa., every Monday. In the 1980s and '90s New Holland was only one of many such sales held on a weekly basis along with Thurmont in Maryland and Marlon France in Pennsylvania. There was also a sale in northern New Jersey run by a character named Bunchy Grand. It was not uncommon for agents of those sales to appear at Timonium to attempt to pick up a few racing-age horses to resell later in the week at their sales.

When December arrived and it was time to take the gray horse to the sale, he drew, as you can imagine, lots of skeptical interest. Most reasonably cautious buyers were scared off by the sketchy background I was able to provide. It wasn't, "only

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driven by an old lady to church on Sunday" but it was hardly more convincing than that. He was, however, a big, good-looking gray gelding still wearing most of his dapples. He sold, I think, for $3,500 and everyone was happy. Josie Taylor was happy, Dixie and I were happy and the buyer, Bunchy Grand, was happy because he knew he could make a profit the following Friday night. It was the only time I ever sold a horse to Bunchy Grand.

A year later, at the next December sale at Timonium, I ran into Bunchy. Like a lawyer cross-examining a hostile witness, I made it a practice to never ask about a horse I had sold unless I already knew what the answer would be. I did not mention the gray horse, but Bunchy did.

He said, "Remember that gray horse I bought from you last year?" I allowed that I did. "That son of a bitch has been through my sale five times in the last year. He's a complete bronc and nobody can ride him."

I told him how sorry I was to hear that, and he laughed. "Don't worry" he said, "I make a nice commission every time he goes through the ring. You know, you can always sell a big good-looking gray gelding that's still wearing most of his dapples." ■

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MHBA members elect 2024 directors

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association membership elected four former members and one new to the 2024 Board of Directors.

Dictated by MHBA bylaws, the annual election fills five open seats on the board. Those elected serve for the next three years. Returning to the board are Brooke Bowman, Michael Horning, Josh Pons and David Wade. Phil Schoenthal joins for the first time.

Brooke Bowman DVM. An equine veterinarian practicing in the Chestertown area, Bowman was manager of Heritage Stallions. A son of former MHBA president Tom Bowman, Brooke grew up working on his parents' Dance Forth and Roland Farms and with his family has bred the likes of Maryland-bred champions Post Time, Street Lute and My Magician. Previously on the board in 2017, he states a mission to "help promote Thoroughbred breeding and racing to the next generation of Maryland breeders."

Michael F. Horning. Secretary-treasurer of the MHBA in 2021 during his three prior years on the board (2019-2021), and current treasurer the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Horning is a retired insurance executive from Potomac (Montgomery County). He has bred or owned numerous Maryland-bred stakes winners with his wife, Debbie. His plans are to continue to "promote the Maryland horse breeding industry and encourage new participation in the sport; work to maintain the revenue stream from VLTs and ensure stability of the Bred Fund that is critical to the breeding industry in the state; and assist MHBA to optimize its financial position and investment portfolio to enhance its resources.

Josh Pons. Standing stallions and operating racing and breeding partnerships with his brother Mike at the Pons family's historic Country Life Farm in Bel Air and Merryland Farm training facility in Hydes (the latter since 2000), Pons has been a member of the board five previous terms, the last in 2015, and was MHBA president for two three-year terms. He is the president of the Maryland Horse Foundation. Among his goals are to see "the industry fund an economic impact study of the Maryland-Bred Program and its benefits to Maryland farms, to Maryland racing stables, and to Maryland racetracks. Without such audited data, the Maryland foal crop will continue to decline. With an understanding of its impact, the Maryland-bred foal crop could recover, as it did when the Maryland-bred bonus program was enhanced in 2013 to compete with surrounding states. It's time we look at our industry, objectively."

Phil Schoenthal. A trainer based in Fair Hill, Schoenthal lives in Lincoln University, Pa. A previous member of the MTHA board for six years and a current member of the board of Maryland Million Ltd., he owns horses in training and has a stallion share. A MTHA trainer of the year, his runners have included stakes-winning Maryland-breds Sonny Inspired, Determined Driver, V. I. P. Code and Elevated Vision. His goal is "to utilize my relationships on the racetrack to further the goals of the MHBA of bringing Maryland-breds to the forefront of the nation's state-bred incentive programs."

David Wade. General manager of Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City and, since 1986, manager of Sycamore Hall Farm, Wade had served two terms on the board (2016-2021) and was vice-president four of those years through 2021. He has also been a MTHA director since 2020. The owner of three broodmares, three racehorses and other young stock has bred Maryland-bred champions Sparkling Number, Celestial Legend and Whereshetoldmetogo, among others. Wade's goal: "To help

foster a unified team between the MTHA and MHBA as we transition into a new age of Maryland racing. . . To encourage fresh ideas and new technologies that will insure the next generation continues to breed and race in Maryland. . . To protect and enhance the Maryland Bred Fund."

The 2024 electees join current directors William K. Boniface, Amy Burk, Henry "Tim" Clark, Charles Fenwick Jr., Lisa Hofstetter, TK Kuegler, Grace Merryman, Kent Murray, Gina Robb and Thomas Rooney. ❧

Career program graduates seventh class

Story and photograph by Lexi Danielson

The class of 2024: MTCP participants (from left): Emily Cross, Keely Flynn, Claire Superczynski, Kate Benjamin and Dasha Bogdanov.

In its seventh year, the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program, established in 2017 by the Maryland Horse Foundation, introduced newcomers to the Thoroughbred racing industry. The educational program, part of the Howard and Sondra Bender Educational Series and known as MTCP, is a comprehensive crash-course of the Sport of Kings, drawing upon Maryland's historical farms and influential industry members to involve the next generation.

Over the course of five days, Kate Benjamin, Dasha Bogdanov, Emily Cross, Keely Flynn and Claire Superczynski toured breeding farms, training facilities, rehabilitation facilities and Laurel Park to receive an in-depth look at the multi-faceted industry. This year, participants were treated to tours of Sagamore Farm, Dark Hollow Farm/Safely Home, Chanceland Farm, the Foxie G Foundation, Country Life Farm, the Mill of Bel Air, Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding Center, Fair Hill, and Laurel Park.

A new addition to the program came from the Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding Center, which introduced participants to equine therapy, and ride-alongs, where members of the equine community and past MTCP graduates were invited to join for a day.

This year's participants provided thoughts on their experiences.

Daria (Dasha) Bogdanov, Baltimore, Md.

The original reason behind my application was to try and gather more financial support for my college path to becoming an equine tech. It was incredible to meet all the hard-working medical professionals; I am only more encouraged to pursue this line of schooling.

That said, I did not know the scope of the Thoroughbred industry. Certainly, the best takeaway has been seeing how so many high-level professionals in this industry started out with "non-horsey" degrees or areas of work only to realize their love for the horse would not allow them to stay away forever. Almost all these individuals now work in the industry in nontraditional roles.

I have a lot of hope for finding a similar path, a path made clearer through participating in the Maryland Thoroughbred Career program. It most likely will not be directly with racing, but I now see that there are a multitude of other options thanks to Cricket Goodall and her team.

Claire Superczynski, Sykesville, Md.

Through the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program, I was amazed to see all the opportunities within the Thoroughbred world. This program helped me to create connections with industry professionals who all genuinely love their careers and the people they work with.

This program reinforced my desire to be a part of this industry and is a valuable first step on my path. I would highly recommend this experience to those searching for their places in the equine community.

Kate Benjamin, Westminster, Md.

I applied to the MTCP after I heard about it at the Maryland Horse Library because I had wanted to become an exercise rider. The program seemed like a good way to get exposure to the Thoroughbred industry.

During the week, we saw lots of different aspects of the racing industry, such as the historic Sagamore Farm, the facilities at Fair Hill, and a day at Laurel Park. My favorite part was seeing how much work goes into getting the horses onto the racetrack, even if you are not directly working with them.

We got to experience many cool things like talking to the jockeys and watching the horses break from the starting gate.

We also talked to a multitude of people that are involved in the industry, from vets and breeders to trainers. It was amazing to have the opportunity to have all these experiences, and I think the biggest thing I gained from the program was how much dedication is needed from each person to keep everyone happy, healthy, and safe when working in the industry.

Emily Cross, Westminster, Md.

I applied to the MTCP to hopefully learn and gain knowledge about horse careers in the Thoroughbred industry. I was hoping to find a hint or job of what field area I would want to go into as a future career.

During this program, I learned so much about the breeding and the before, during, and after of the racing industry. My favorite part was sharing this experience with new friends and making connections throughout the industry. I loved visiting all the barns and making memories. My biggest takeaway would be that there are always jobs out there for what you want to do, whether it's an office job or exercise riding.

This helped me view the Thoroughbred industry differently because I learned about the love and care every horse is given and how the industry is growing to benefit everyone including the hosers. This change of view has got me asking myself, 'What do I really want to do as a career?' The Thoroughbred industry has plenty of options. After this program, you'll see the opportunity and want to take it!

Keely Flynn, Harwood, Md.

My trainer had mentioned the MTCP to me as an option to learn more about the Maryland Thoroughbred Industry. While I have a lot of experience with horses, it is limited to hunter/equitation and eventing. I have always wanted to be an equine veterinarian, but the cost and amount of schooling can feel overwhelming.

This program seemed like a great opportunity to offer exposure to the aspects of the industry that I do not know. My favorite part of the program was the Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding Center. I have always found that horses bring me peace, but it was amazing to see the effect these animals have on people of all walks of life. The therapeutic side of the industry allows people to work with horses outside of just riding and I hadn't gotten to experience that prior to the program.

My biggest takeaway was making connections in the Maryland horse industry. There are a ton of career paths possible within the Maryland Thoroughbred industry and I have now met many resources that can help me set my path. Everyone was extremely willing to share their contact information and offered to help in the future. ❧

2024 Governor's Cup awards presented

Three horses shared the 2024 Maryland Governor's Cup Steeplechase Horse of the Year title: Maryland-breds Bogey's Image and Road to Oz, and My Lady's Manor winner Our Friend (Ire).

Presented by the Maryland Steeplechase Association, the Maryland Governor's Cup Series recognizes the top performers in events throughout the state, starting with the Foxhall Farm Cup Team Chase in March and concluding at the Potomac Hunt Races in May. The awards were presented June 20 at the annual awards reception at the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club in Owings Mills.

The first to win during the series was Holwood Stables' Road to Oz at the Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point at Shawan Downs March 31 when he took the Green Spring Valley Hunt Cup. One race later, Harvey Goolsby, Achsah O'Donovan and Dan Colhoun's Bogey's Image captured the Kiplin Farm Bowl. The Elkridge-Harford Hunt Point-to-Point in Monkton the next week saw Armata Stables' Our Friend win the Leith Symington Griswold.

Our Friend scored big the following Saturday when taking the My Lady's Manor with Road to Oz third. Bogey's Image recorded his next win at the Grand National April 20 in the Western Run Plate, while Road to Oz would come close once again by finishing second in that day's featured event.

The two Maryland-breds split the title and $500 cash prize for that division's Horse of the Year title; Bogey's Image (by the late Imagining) took sole honors (and $500) as leading Maryland Million-sired Horse of the Year.

Overall leading rider Teddy Davies had eight wins, six aboard horses trained by his father, the leading trainer.

Joe Davies, the trainer of seven of the last eight Maryland Hunt Cup winners, including this year's winner Blackhall (Ire), recorded seven wins this spring, with Our Friend, Mr. Fine Threads and Bogey's Image each winning twice. ❧

Maryland Governor's Cup Horse of the Year (Open Timber Champion) *(three-way tie)*:
Bogey's Image (Harvey Goolsby, Achsah O'Donovan and Dan Colhoun).
Our Friend (Ire) (Armata Stables).
Road to Oz (Holwood Stables)

Maryland Novice Timber Champion: Wagner (Ire) (Merriebelle Stable)

Amateur/Apprentice Timber Horse and Rider Champion: Bogey's Image and Teddy Davies

Heavyweight Timber Champion *(tie)*:
Brooklyn Speights (Turks Head Turf)
Goodoldtimes (Ire) (Armata Stables)

ITM Irish-bred Horse of the Year: Blackhall (Ire) (Kinross Farm).

Maryland-bred Horse of the Year *(tie)*:
Bogey's Image (Harvey Goolsby, Achsah O'Donovan and Dan Colhoun)
Road to Oz (Holwood Stables)

Maryland Million-sired Horse of the Year:
Bogey's Image, by Imagining (Daniel Colhoun, Achsah O'Donovan and Harvey Goolsby)

H. Turney McKnight Perpetual Trophy Leading Owner: Armata Stables

Leading Trainer: Joe Davies

H. Brooks Durkee Memorial Leading Timber Rider: Teddy Davies

Thomas H. Voss Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Leading Amateur Rider: Teddy Davies

Overall Rider: Teddy Davies

Lady Rider: Virginia Korrell

Voss Amateur Flat Series: Dan Nevin

Junior Small Pony Rider: Cami Kern

Junior Medium Pony Rider: Yomar Ortiz Jr.

Junior Large Pony Rider: Jaidyn Shore

Overall Pony Rider: Yomar Ortiz Jr.

Junior Horse Rider: Jaidyn Shore

Austin Tamberino Memorial Junior Rider Award: Yomar Ortiz Jr.

Jonathan Kiser Memorial Scholarship: Carly Kern

D.M. Smithwick Jr. Junior Foxchasing Scholarship: Savannah Hutchins, Abby Taylor

D.M. Smithwick Jr. Junior Cubbing Scholarship: Pauly Aguilera

Discovering a Champion

A 1937 oil painting of Discovery, by Franklin B. Voss, hangs in the Willow Oaks Gallery at the Maryland Horse Library. Donated by Caroline Stautberg's Willow Oaks Stable, the painting was recently acquired from the Bob Kinsley family and, after being cleaned, was unveiled May 23 at the library.

About 60 donors and friends attended. Michael Finney and Josh Pons each spoke. Finney, grandson of Humphrey Finney and an equine art expert, helped with the acquisition of the painting. Josh Pons' grandfather Adolphe Pons leased Discovery in 1933 as a 2-year-old and brokered the sale of the horse to Alfred G. Vanderbilt that year.

Discovery (1931-1958) was one of the top racehorses of his era. He came into his own as a 3-year-old in 1934 and dominated the handicap division the next two years. Horse of the Year in 1935 and Champion Handicap Horse in 1935 and 1936, Discovery carried 135 pounds or more 11 times to earn the moniker the "Big Train." Discovery retired with a record of 27-10-10 from 63 starts and earnings of $195,287. He was inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in 1969. The painting was done after Discovery won his third Brooklyn Handicap for Vanderbilt in 1936.

Standing at Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm in Glyndon, Md., for his entire stud career, Discovery was one of the most influential sires of the 20th century. He ranked among the top 20 on the national sires list seven times and sired 26 stakes winners, among them champion Conniver, during 21 seasons at stud. Discovery's daughters produced Hall of Famers Native Dancer, Bold Ruler and Bed o' Roses. Discovery died Aug. 28, 1958, at Sagamore Farm at age 27 and is buried at the farm.

Maryland Horse LIBRARY
AND EDUCATION CENTER

On the calendar

Monday, July 22, 6:30 p.m.—Virtual author talk with Susan Friedland, author of *Marguerite, Misty, and Me*.

Friedland will join the library virtually to describe her quest to uncover the story of Marguerite Henry. Spanning decades, Friedland dives into the nostalgia surrounding Marguerite Henry's storied career and invokes a newfound sense of wonder about the prolific horse lover and author. Happening the same week as the pony swim at Chincoteague.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in March 2024 at Maryland tracks

Conniver Stakes

March 16. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 8 competed. (Closed with 21 nominations.) Winner: TOO MANY KISSES, by Arrogate. Breeder bonus: Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: ROYAL WHISPER, by Palace Malice. Breeder bonus: Barak Farm ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: BAY STREET, by Mosler. Breeder bonus: Greycross Stable LLC ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Mosler Syndicate ($562.50).

Not For Love Stakes

March 16. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 6 fur. 6 competed. (Closed with 21 nominations.) Winner: TAKE A HINT, by Bandbox. Breeder bonus: Thornmar Farm LLC ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Northview Stallion Station ($3,375). Second: ARDEN'S-LUCKYTOBE, by Madefromlucky. Breeder bonus: Holly House Farm ($3,375). Stallion bonus: Madefromlucky Syndicate ($1,125). Third: COFFEEWITHCHRIS, by Ride On Curlin. Breeder bonus: Thomas Rooney ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Leo J. Ambrogi—Razorette: March 2, 5th race, $3,105/$1,035. ($4,140)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—She'sarollingstone: March 10, 8th race, $6,615; March 30, 9th race, $2,385. Short of Dinero: March 23, 10th race, $3,105/$1,035. Vance Scholars: March 17, 8th race, $2,520. ($15,660)

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: March 9, 6th race, $472.50. Hateful: March 29, 6th race, $4,590/$1,530. Royal Whisper: March 1, 1st race, $832.50; March 16, 8th race, $3,375. ($10,800)

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: March 10, 7th race, $1,665.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Burningupthedough: March 16, 2nd race, $742.50. Champagne Dance: March 24, 6th race, $1,035. ($1,777.50)

BB Horses—Royal Seamstress: March 8, 8th race, $6,480.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Lorraine's Way: March 16, 10th race, $1,035.

Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm—Quint's Brew: March 2, 7th race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)

Joseph Besecker—Kilo Road: March 23, 7th race, $1,057.50.

Charles Blanford—Uncle Irish: March 17, 4th race, $1,305.

David Benjamin Bloom—Easter Sunday Girl: March 29, 3rd race, $1,035.

Bonita Farm—Malinois: March 3, 5th race, $5,535; March 16, 4th race, $6,615. Never Done: March 15, 4th race, $495. ($12,645)

Richard H. Bosshard Jr.—Return Fire: March 1, 9th race, $517.50; March 17, 9th race, $1,035. ($1,552.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Blue Kingdom: March 1, 3rd race, $922.50; March 16, 3rd race, $1,845. Cynergy's Electra: March 9, 6th race, $2,835. Gabriel Seven: March 10, 5th race, $2,970. ($8,572.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Battle of Bastogne: March 8, 9th race, $1,485.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: March 9, 5th race, $742.50; March 22, 1st race, $1,080. ($1,822.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Double Crown: March 16, 9th race, $2,250.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: March 22, 5th race, $3,510.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: March 3, 4th race, $652.50; March 24, 8th race, $832.50. ($1,485)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: March 16, 6th race, $2,700.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—K Kake Pop: March 3, 6th race, $765; March 29, 6th race, $1,530. Master of None: March 8, 9th race, $742.50; March 30, 3rd race, $1,485. No Walk Inthe Park: March 29, 3rd race, $3,105. ($7,627.50)

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: March 3, 7th race, $2,385; March 24, 9th race, $2,385. ($4,770)

BTR Racing Inc.—Edester: March 2, 10th race, $1,035; March 16, 5th race, $3,645/$1,215. ($5,895)

Dennis A. Cardoza—Captain Cardo: March 2, 6th race, $1,080.

Wes Carter—Had to Have Him: March 1, 7th race, $1,102.50.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Super Needy: March 10, 1st race, $765.

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: March 22, 8th race, $2,205.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: March 22, 1st race, $3,240.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnell—Touisset: March 1, 4th race, $6,615.

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: March 3, 3rd race, $1,485.

Country Life Farm and Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.—Mr. Mox: March 8, 4th race, $697.50; March 29, 2nd race, $697.50. ($1,395)

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: March 23, 2nd race, $2,092.50.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: March 29, 2nd race, $2,092.50.

Country Roads Ltd.—Utterly Enchanting: March 3, 9th race, $2,092.50; March 30, 4th race, $3,240. ($5,332.50)

Dark Hollow Farm—Maryland Moon: March 30, 3rd race, $742.50.

Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: March 24, 8th race, $4,995.

Designated Hitters Racing—Omar Comin: March 29, 1st race, $742.50.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: March 16, 1st race, $3,375.

Finale Farm, Mr. and Mrs. D. David Moose and Lone Pond Farm LLC—Mr. Houghton: March 16, 1st race, $562.50.

Flying H Stables LLC—Stellars in Charge: March 30, 6th race, $765.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid Dream: March 2, 9th race, $7,560. Intrepid's Legacy: March 2, 7th race, $1,057.50; March 22, 3rd race, $2,115. ($10,732.50)

Robert J. Gerczak—Sultry Sally H: March 30, 4th race, $1,080.

Glenangus Farm LLC—R B's Big Moment: March 16, 10th race, $3,105.

Sergio Gomez—Lunita: March 23, 2nd race, $697.50.

Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: March 1, 8th race, $1,080; March 22, 9th race, $2,160. ($3,240)

Sheryl Grant—Heaven's Got Fire: March 9, 8th race, $6,480.

Greycross Stable LLC—Bay Street: March 16, 8th race, $1,687.50.

Maria M. Haire—Get Like Mike: March 2, 4th race, $742.50. Play Harder: March 22, 8th race, $6,615. ($7,357.50)

Holly House Farm—Arden'sluckytobe: March 1, 2nd race, $6,615; March 16, 7th race, $3,375. ($9,990)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Blue Trillion: March 10, 6th race, $1,845.

Kyle M. Horlacher and Charles Blanford—I Had Enough: March 22, 6th race, $517.50.

Housatonic Bloodstock LLC, Nicole Martin and Ciara Denicolo—Imaginized: March 9, 3rd race, $607.50

Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: March 1, 4th race, $2,205; March 22, 7th race, $6,615. Mine Run: March 17, 6th race, $2,835. ($11,655)

Jagger Inc.—Paco the Taco Man: March 10, 5th race, $990. Silverbullettwenty: March 2, 4th race, $1,485. Speedyness: March 23, 9th race, $2,250. ($4,725)

Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Derbyness: March 29, 5th race, $5,535.

R. Larry Johnson—Call Another Play: March 22, 4th race, $6,615. Great Heavens: March 9, 8th race, $1,080. Heldish: March 24, 9th race, $1,192.50. Medagooch: March 1, 3rd race, $1,845; March 16, 3rd race, $5,535. ($16,267.50)

Karmac Stables LLC—Frosty Maya: March 2, 1st race, $3,105. Prado Road: March 1, 7th race, $2,205. ($5,310)

Harry Kassap LLC—Atlas Strong: March 30, 1st race, $3,645/$1,215.($4,860)

Toni M. Kirwan and Edward Hipps—Minxzluckystarfyre: March 15, 3rd race, $1,845; March 29, 8th race, $1,530. ($3,375)

Joanne P. Krishack—Commanding General: March 29, 10th race, $3,240.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Buckin' Dreamer: March 29, 5th race, $922.50. Davyjonz: March 15, 3rd race, $922.50. Never Grew Up: March 1, 9th race, $3,105/$1,035; March 10, 5th race, $495. Seeker: March 17, 9th race, $517.50. ($6,997.50)

Carl Lanier—Freeze the Fire: March 9, 8th race, $2,160. Mosler Time: March 24, 2nd race, $3,375. ($5,535)

Cal Lynch, Dr. Tom Keenan and Spendthrift Farm—Under the Overpass: March 9, 3rd race, $1,215; March 29, 8th race, $765. ($1,980)

Magic Carpet Racing—Buckin' Lucky: March 2, 10th race, $517.50.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Catch the Kitten: March 30, 2nd race, $945.

Haralabos Maravelias—Nico Lucky: March 8, 3rd race, $3,105/$1,035. ($4,140)

Helen C. Marshall—Take Charge Too: March 10, 7th race, $4,995. The Big Enchilada: March 8, 1st race, $1,440. ($6,435)

Elizabeth Martin—Bunny Hop: March 3, 8th race, $1,102.50.

Peter D. Mattson—Angelofcanterbury: March 8, 8th race, $1,080. Bythenumbers: March 23, 1st race, $765. ($1,845)

Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: March 1, 2nd race, $1,102.50; March 22, 9th race, $6,480. ($7,582.50)

James F. McIngvale—Restless: March 10, 1st race, $4,590; March 30, 7th race, $1,845. ($6,435)

Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: March 3, 5th race, $922.50.

Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: March 10, 6th race, $922.50.

Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: March 16, 2nd race, $4,455.

Kevin P. Morgan—Fancy Princess: March 15, 9th race, $450. Rahmer: March 29, 2nd race, $348.75. ($798.75)

Murmur Farm—Golden Charm: March 9, 1st race, $5,535/$1,845; March 29, 9th race, $1,080. Mister Agent: March 29, 1st race, $4,455. ($12,915)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Banditsgoldenchild: March 30, 6th race, $4,590/$1,530. Fuhgeddaboudit: March 24, 8th race, $1,665. G's Fireball: March 2, 10th race, $3,105/$1,035. General J R: March 2, 3rd race, $517.50. Irish Hero: March 24, 3rd race, $2,115. ($14,557.50)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Dead Sexy: March 15, 7th race, $922.50. Jardani: March 1, 8th race, $2,160. ($3,082.50)

Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: March 10, 4th race, $832.50.

Frank A. Perri Jr.—Peachessweetnotion: March 23, 10th race, $517.50.

A. Leonard Pineau—No More Mask: March 3, 9th race, $697.50; March 15, 9th race, $2,700; March 30, 4th race, $540. ($3,937.50)

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Brysons Option: March 29, 1st race, $1,485.

Cynthia K. Rickman—Casino Tricks: March 15, 2nd race, $990. Crownedcountcristo: March 16, 6th race, $450. ($1,440)

Rolling Meadows Farm—Confluence Lassie: March 2, 1st race, $1,035. Summerstateofmind: March 10, 1st race, $1,530; March 30, 6th race, $1,530. Sweeterthanwhiskey: March 3, 6th race, $4,590/$1,530. ($10,215)

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: March 16, 7th race, $1,687.50.

Frank T. Sample—Secret Zipper: March 16, 4th race, $2,205.

Timothy J. Shaw and Alicia Morgan—Bump N Run: March 15, 6th race, $7,560.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: March 22, 10th race, $945. Porch Swing: March 22, 9th race, $1,080. ($2,025)

Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: March 8, 2nd race, $2,227.50.

Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette—The Last Jumpstart: March 3, 1st race, $3,645; March 16, 1st race, $1,125. ($4,770)

Super C Racing Inc.—Dance for Green: March 16, 2nd race, $1,485. Kissedbyanangel: March 23, 8th race, $4,500. Super Simplify: March 23, 7th race, $6,345/$2,115. ($14,445)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: March 8, 5th race, $1,080. Cozy Notion: March 9, 1st race, $1,845. Formal Affair: March 16, 4th race, $1,102.50. Frightland: March 1, 8th race, $6,480. Goodafternoonoscar: March 8, 1st race, $720. Northern Glow: March 10, 8th race, $1,102.50. Your Analysis: March 10, 4th race, $4,995; March 30, 8th race, $2,385. ($19,710)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Society Ball: March 3, 8th race, $2,205.

James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: March 22, 5th race, $1,170.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Brady Bear: March 29, 8th race, $4,590. Jay: March 24, 1st race, $922.50. Joe: March 10, 4th race, $1,665. Order Ofthe Kettle: March 24, 2nd race, $562.50. ($7,740)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Goodbye Note: March 15, 3rd race, $5,535/$1,845. Great Call: March 24, 10th race, $472.50. Joe the Jet: March 9, 3rd race, $3,645/$1,215. Midsummers Eve: March 22, 7th race, $1,102.50. Something Silly: March 16, 5th race, $607.50. Square Slice: March 8, 6th race, $922.50; March 22, 8th race, $1,102.50. Take a Hint: March 3, 7th race, $1,192.50; March 16, 7th race, $10,125. ($27,765)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: March 16, 8th race, $10,125.

2500 Determined Holdings—Determind Princess: March 15, 7th race, $1,845. Determined Blue: March 3, 3rd race, $742.50; March 17, 2nd race, $1,485. Determined Driver: March 23, 8th race, $13,500. Overly Dramatic: March 15, 7th race, $5,535. ($23,107.50)

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: March 8, 8th race, $2,160; March 29, 9th race, $6,480. ($8,640)

Two Legends Farm and Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Amie's Symphony: March 17, 3rd race, $2,115.

Maureen Wade—Honor the Truth: March 9, 4th race, $1,080; March 17, 1st race, $495. ($1,575)

Estate of Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: March 24, 6th race, $3,105/$1,035. ($4,140)

Susan Wantz—Harmonizing: March 16, 5th race, $1,215.

Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—Neil to the King: March 1, 3rd race, $5,535/$1,845. ($7,380)

John E. Williamson III—Mysisternancy: March 30, 10th race, $371.25. Ournationonparade: March 15, 6th race, $1,260. Stickwiththecolors: March 23, 4th race, $2,205. ($3,836.25)

Willow Oaks Stable LLC—Under the Radar: March 15, 8th race, $2,205.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Thencomemorning: March 15, 4th race, $2,970.

WWCD LLC—Mattitude: March 9, 4th race, $3,240; March 24, 7th race, $3,915. ($7,155)

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Shackled Love: March 17, 5th race, $450.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Sultry Sally H: March 30, 4th race, $360): Robert Gerczak

BANDBOX (Band Camp: March 16, 1st race, $1,125. Paco the Taco Man: March 10, 5th race, $330. Super Simplify: March 23, 7th race, $2,115. Take a Hint: March 3, 7th race, $397.50; March 16, 7th race, $3,375): Northview Stallion Station—$7,342.50.

BARBADOS (Hateful: March 29, 6th race, $1,530): Shamrock Farm

BLOFELD (Blue Trillion: March 10, 6th race, $615. Golden Charm: March 9, 1st race, $1,845; March 29, 9th race, $360. Goodbye

Note: March 15, 3rd race, $1,845. Mister Agent: March 29, 1st race, $1,485. Square Slice: March 8, 6th race, $307.50; March 22, 8th race, $367.50): Blofeld Syndicate—$6,825.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Wildcat: March 3, 4th race, $217.50; March 24, 8th race, $277.50. Davyjonz: March 15, 3rd race, $307.50. Double Crown: March 16, 9th race, $750. G's Fireball: March 2, 10th race, $1,035. Never Grew Up: March 1, 9th race, $1,035; March 10, 5th race, $165. She'sarollingstone: March 10, 8th race, $2,205; March 30, 9th race, $795. Sweeterthanwhiskey: March 3, 6th race, $1,530): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$8,317.50.

BUFFUM (Commanding General: March 29, 10th race, $1,080. Fancy Princess: March 15, 9th race, $150): Buffum Syndicate—$1,230.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: March 15, 6th race, $420): Cal Nation Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Up Against It: March 16, 6th race, $900. Utterly Enchanting: March 3, 9th race, $697.50; March 30, 4th race, $1,080): R. Larry Johnson—$2,677.50.

DIVINING ROD (Champagne Dance: March 24, 6th race, $345. Looking for Water: March 22, 10th race, $315. Mr. Mox: March 8, 4th race, $232.50; March 29, 2nd race, $232.50. Next Girl: March 3, 3rd race, $495. Stickwiththecolors: March 23, 4th race, $735. Under the Radar: March 15, 8th race, $735): Divining Rod Syndicate—$3,090.

DORTMUND (Dolice Vita: March 1, 8th race, $360; March 22, 9th race, $720. Malinois: March 3, 5th race, $1,845; March 16, 4th race, $2,205. Never Done: March 15, 4th race, $165): Kaleem S. Shah—$5,295.

EDITORIAL (Atlas Strong: March 30, 1st race, $1,215): Climax Stallions LLC.

FIRST MONDAYS (Blue Kingdom: March 1, 3rd race, $307.50; March 16, 3rd race, $615): First Mondays Partnership—$922.50.

FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: March 1, 7th race, $367.50. Joe the Jet: March 9, 3rd race, $1,215. Neil To The King: March 1, 3rd race, $1,845): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$3,427.50.

FRIESAN FIRE (Burningupthedough: March 16, 2nd race, $247.50. Freeze the Fire: March 9, 8th race, $720. Return Fire: March 1, 9th race, $172.50; March 17, 9th race, $345. Thencomemorning: March 15, 4th race, $990): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$2,475.

GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: March 8, 5th race, $360. Banditsgoldenchild: March 30, 6th race, $1,530. Casino Tricks: March 15, 2nd race, $330. Catahoula Moon: March 22, 8th race, $735. Crownedcountcristo: March 16, 6th race, $150. Disputed Claim: March 1, 2nd race, $367.50; March 22, 9th race, $2,160. I Had Enough: March 22, 6th race, $172.50. Kissedbyanangel: March 23, 8th race, $1,500. Lunita: March 23, 2nd race, $232.50. Mine Run: March 17, 6th race, $945. Nico Lucky: March 8, 3rd race, $1,035. Omar Comin: March 29, 1st race, $247.50. Prado Road: March 1, 7th race, $735. Rahmer: March 29, 2nd race, $116.25. The Big Enchilada: March 8, 1st race, $480): Golden Lad Syndicate – $11,096.25.

GREAT NOTION (Brzina: March 1, 4th race, $735; March 22, 7th race, $2,205. Cozy Notion: March 9, 1st race, $615. Fuhgeddaboudit: March 24, 8th race, $555. Great Call: March 24, 10th race, $157.50. Great Heavens: March 9, 8th race, $360. Heldish: March 24, 9th race, $397.50. Mattitude: March 9, 4th race, $1,080; March 24, 7th race, $1,305. Peachessweetnotion: March 23, 10th race, $172.50. Society Ball: March 3, 8th race, $735. Speedyness: March 23, 9th race, $750): Great Notion Syndicate—$9,067.50

HOLY BOSS (Dead Sexy: March 15, 7th race, $307.50. Easter Sunday Girl: March 29, 3rd race, $345. General J R: March 2, 3rd race, $172.50. Jardani: March 1, 8th race, $720. Silverbullettwenty: March 2, 4th race, $495. Vance Scholars: March 17, 8th race, $840): Holy Boss Syndicate—$2,880.

IMAGINING (Buckin' Dreamer: March 29, 5th race, $307.50. Imaginized: March 9, 3rd race, $202.50. In the Dance: March 3, 5th race, $307.50. Intrepid's Legacy: March 2, 7th race, $352.50; March 22, 3rd race, $705. Summerstateofmind: March 10, 1st race, $510; March 30, 6th race, $510): Imagining Syndicate—$2,895.

IRISH WAR CRY (Dance for Green: March 16, 2nd race, $495. Fivecommatwo: March 9, 6th race, $157.50. Irish Hero: March 24, 3rd race, $705. Irish Lace: March 8, 2nd race, $742.50. Irish Warlock: March 22, 5th race, $390. King's River: March 16, 2nd race, $1,485. Porch Swing: March 22, 9th race, $360. Royal Seamstress: March 8, 8th race, $2,160): Northview Stallion Station—$6,495.

LONG RIVER (Confluence Lassie: March 2, 1st race, $345. Razorette: March 2, 5th race, $1,035. Seeker: March 17, 9th race, $172.50. Short of Dinero: March 23, 10th race, $1,035): Long River Syndicate—$2,587.50.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Arden'sluckytobe: March 1, 2nd race, $2,205; March 16, 7th race, $1,125. Buckin' Lucky: March 2, 10th race, $172.50. Cynergy's Electra: March 9, 6th race, $945. Minxzluckystarfyre: March 15, 3rd race, $615; March 29, 8th race, $510): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$5,572.50.

MOSLER (Bay Street: March 16, 8th race, $562.50. Edester: March 2, 10th race, $345; March 16, 5th race, $1,215. Luv Ya Bye Bye: March 29, 2nd race, $697.50. Mose Perfect: March 10, 4th race, $277.50. Mosler Time: March 24, 2nd race, $1,125. Mysisternancy: March 30, 10th race, $123.75. Quint's Brew: March 2, 7th race, $2,115. Sapphire Beauty: March 23, 2nd race, $697.50. Touisset: March 1, 4th race, $2,205): Mosler Syndicate—$9,363.75.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: March 9, 5th race, $247.50; March 22, 1st race, $360): Not For Love Syndicate—$607.50.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: March 3, 7th race, $795; March 24, 9th race, $795): Redeemed Syndicate—$1,590.

STREET MAGICIAN (Battle of Bastogne: March 8, 9th race, $495. Gabriel Seven: March 10, 5th race, $990): R. Larry Johnson—$1,485.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: March 22, 1st race, $1,080. Concrete Faze: March 24, 6th race, $1,035. Super Needy: March 10, 1st race, $255): Country Life Farm—$2,370.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through June 18)

1. Post Time	$565,000	11. Studlydoright	$114,930
2. Mindframe	447,360	12. Determined Driver	113,810
3. Jaxon Traveler	237,850	13. Miss Harriett	112,310
4. Future Is Now	236,930	14. Kennebec	105,180
5. Rominski	198,390	15. Golden Charm	104,550
6. Call Another Play	171,815	16. Play Harder	102,055
7. Crabs N Beer	131,440	17. Fulmineo	99,095
8. Speedyness	129,810	18. Intrepid Dream	98,640
9. My Flicker	117,180	19. Malinois	98,590
10. Take a Hint	116,355	20. Charming Way	96,570

Maryland Horse Forum

Unbridling Potential

Presenting sponsor Rural Maryland Council

Get Ready for the Maryland Horse Forum on August 8th, 2024!

McDonogh School Owings Mills, MD

With just a month to go until the Maryland Horse Forum on August 8th at McDonogh School, excitement is building as planning kicks into high gear! We're thrilled to share the results of our comprehensive industry-wide survey, which received feedback from hundreds of individuals. This valuable input has highlighted the key topics our community is eager to discuss at the forum. Some of the main issues on everyone's minds include the need for more veterinarians and health professionals, strategies to attract new people to the horse industry, and maintaining our social license to operate. Additionally, preserving public land for recreational riding, ensuring horse welfare, and navigating legislation affecting the industry are high priorities.

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By attending the forum, you can share the issues that matter most to you and work with others in the industry to develop innovative solutions. All the ideas and solutions will be compiled into a final report, which will be presented to the Governor of Maryland and released to the public. Join us in shaping the future of the horse industry in Maryland. ***Your insights and contributions are invaluable!***

August 8th, 2024!
RSVP!
Join the conversation to chart the Maryland Horse Industry's future
The Maryland Horse Forum serves as a day to hear from the entire Maryland Horse Industry. We invite you to share your thoughts and solutions to current Industry concerns.
For more information Anne.Litz@maryland.gov or Ross.Peddicord@maryland.gov
MarylandHorseForum.com

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **July/August 2024** -

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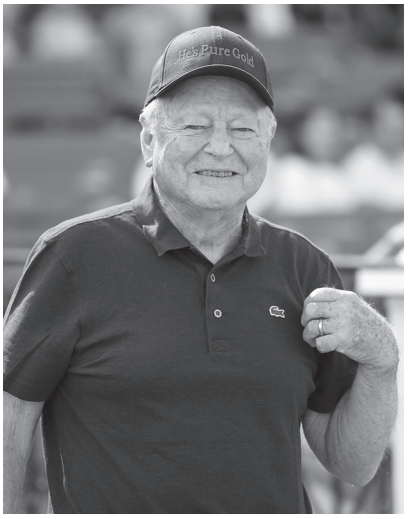
John Bowers Jr. named recipient of 2024 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Award

Monmouth Park Press Release

Prominent New Jersey owner and breeder John Bowers Jr., whose Roseland Farm Stable boasts an impressive list of state-bred stakes winners, has been named the 2024 recipient of the Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award.



The Raines Award, currently in its 29th year, is presented annually just prior to Monmouth Park's season opener. It honors men and women who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to the sport of Thoroughbred racing as an owner, trainer or administrator, and whose conduct has been exemplary for professionalism, integrity and service to the sport.

Bowers has twice been honored by the state's Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association as the Breeder of the Year in New Jersey (2020 and 2021).

He bred and owned He'spuregold, the state's champion older male in 2022, as well as top New Jersey-bred performers Valedictorian, Pickin' Time, Royal Urn and Thistyranthasclass.

Pickin' Time won the Grade 3 Nashua Stakes in 2020; Royal Urn was the state's champion male sprinter and older horse in 2021 and Thistyranthasclass was a multiple stakes winner.

Bowers also bred Grade 3 winner Smart N Classy, who has a stakes race named for her at Monmouth Park. Stay Smart, a daughter of Smart N Classy who was bred and owned by Bowers and his long-time advisor Ed Rosen, won the race in 2020.

"John Bowers Jr. has been synonymous with New Jersey-breds for over 40 years," said Michael Campbell, executive director of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. "His breeding operation has produced horses that can compete in the biggest races, and I am proud they are New Jersey-breds. He is a worthy recipient of the Buddy Raines Award, considering his impact on the New Jersey breeding and racing programs."

Bowers and his wife Joan established Roseland Farm Stable in nearby Colts Neck in 1974.

continued next page

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"He is the epitome of what a person would want to be as far as training Jersey-breds," said three-time Monmouth Park training champion Kelly Breen, who has trained for Bowers the past six years. "He has bred some of the most talented Jersey-breds we've seen in recent years.

"He's a great owner to work for. He breeds and owns horses but he also cares about his old horses. I think we've claimed a couple of horses just so they could be retired and taken care of once they were done racing.

"It's a well-deserved honor."

Jersey-bred Sea Streak could be Haskell bound

by Bill Finley

Sea Streak, a New Jersey-bred gelding by Sea Wizard, had shown potential in his first six races. He ran second behind Jersey-bred star Book'em Danno in his debut and missed winning the Mucho Macho Man Stakes at Gulfstream by just three-quarters of a length in a third-place finish. But that one big effort, the one that would get his connections excited, had always eluded him.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

"I have been high on him every time that I started him," said trainer Eddie Owens Jr. "He had come up a little short a couple times but he was still learning the game. I have been chasing a dream with this horse. He was a little green early and would run in spots."

He is not chasing the dream any longer. In what was by far the best start of his career, Sea Streak demolished the competition in the May 11 Long Branch Stakes, winning by 7¼ lengths over Heartened, the race favorite who came out of the Todd Pletcher barn.

"He finally put it all together the other day," Owens said.

Jairo Rendon had the mount, the first time since Oct. 1 of last year when Sea Streak broke his maiden at Aqueduct. The native of Colombia decided to get aggressive and those tactics worked. Sea Streak broke sharply before setting into third position on the rail, right off of the leaders. Rendon, still saving ground, had his horse in front on the far turn. In the stretch, he simply ran away from his competition.

"Eddie told me if they let you go to the lead you'll be on the lead," Rendon said. "But if they fight for the lead let him relax and go at his pace. He's a horse that knows what to do. I got the best trip I could get.

"I breezed the horse the other day and I knew he was ready to go. And I knew he could get the distance. He's a Jersey-bred but he's a very good horse. He has been running against some good horses at Gulfstream and in New York."

"I knew he had the potential to run the way he did," Owens said. "He ran a totally different race than he had before. He never went right to the lead like that. In his previous starts, we ran him in allowance race at Gulfstream, and he just ran in spots."

Owens said Sea Streak's next start would possibly be the June 15 Pegasus (he ran fifth behind Tuscan Sky). Like the Long Branch, the Pegasus is a prep for the Grade I Haskell, which will be run this year July 20.

Owens is not the type to get too high on his horses. But he has an improving 3-year-old coming off the best race of his life. There's no reason not to think of the Haskell, a race that has never been won by a Jersey-bred.

"Do I have a Haskell horse? I don't know," Owens said. "He's still learning and he's still growing. He could be a Haskell horse. I'm not saying he's not. I'm going to let him tell me. I'm excited. This horse is going to be alright. I'm not going to say he's going to win the Haskell. But if he runs to his potential, he'll be right there. He's getting better."

The Long Branch was also a big day for New Jersey sire Sea Wizard as Sea Streak became his third stakes winner. Including 13 2-year-olds who have yet to hit the racetrack, Sea Wizard has 34 foals of racing age; 9 percent of his foals are stakes winners. If you take away the current crop of 2-year-olds, he has 14 percent stakes winners.

The other two are Great Navigator, winner of the 2023 Charles J. Hesse III Handicap for Jersey-breds, and Ship to Shore, winner of the Limehouse Stakes at Gulfstream in January. All three are Holly Crest Farm homebreds. Sea Wizard stands for $5,000 at Pegasus Stud in Colts Neck.

Speaking returns from layoff to win John J. Reilly Handicap

Monmouth Park Press Release

The most dominant sprinter in the New Jersey-bred ranks couldn't be slowed by a nearly eight-month layoff, with trainer Eddie Owens Jr. now left to plot what his next move is with the talented Speaking.

Speaking, a 5-year-old gelded son of Mr. Speaker bred and owned by Holly Crest Farm, shook off some early challenges on the backside before pulling away in the final furlong for a 3½-length victory in the $85,000 John J. Reilly Handicap May 19 at Monmouth Park.

It marked the second straight year Speaking has won the John J. Reilly and extended his state-bred stakes-winning streak to three.

The winning time for the 6 furlongs was 1:11.43.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

"He ran big. I'm pleased," said Owens, whose horse had been on the shelf since winning the New Jersey Breeders Handicap Aug. 27. "He didn't win the way I wanted him to win but he won. I thought he would win easier. It looked like they were ganging up on him early on the backside but he was just much the best against this group."

Sent off as the odds-on favorite in the field of six Jersey-breds, Speaking broke alertly and on the lead before being passed on the inside on the backstretch by Running Right by U and then on the outside by No Cents.

Jockey Jairo Rendon was having none of it, sending Speaking to the lead again. After engaging in a head-to-head duel with No Cents and Paco Lopez both entering and coming out of the final turn, Speaking surged late to win easily. No Cents held for second, 1 length ahead of Kaz Sweet Heist.

Speaking's statistics both sprinting and at Monmouth Park became a touch more impressive with his latest victory. He has a 7-1-1 line from 10 career starts at Monmouth and is 6-for-9 at 6 furlongs. His lifetime earnings increased to $450,840 from 15 starts.

"I was not worried about the layoff," said Rendon, who has been aboard for the three straight stakes wins. "This horse is always fast. [Owens] is very good at getting these horses to run off layoffs. I was a little bit concerned about some of the horses coming from behind because we went into the turn really fast. The guys were putting pressure on us.

"I didn't want to be on the lead but the race turned out like that and I had to go. He's just a good horse. He is very consistent. He does not run a lot but when he does he is usually good."

The dilemma for Owens is where to go next. He said the only realistic option is the New Jersey Breeders Handicap Aug. 25, which Speaking would be seeking to win a third straight time.

Because of bleeding issues, Owens said, he struggles to find stakes races since Lasix is no longer permitted in them.

Speaking ran just three times last year, twice at Monmouth Park, because of the Lasix stakes ban. Facing Jersey-breds mitigates some of that issue, Owens said.

"Right now all there is for him is the New Jersey Breeders Handicap," said Owens. "It's tough to run him in open stakes company, which I would do, but he can't be on Lasix in those races. So he may only run twice at Monmouth Park this year, like he did last year. It's very frustrating.

"This is the best run we've had with him, winning three stakes races in a row. I think he is one of the best sprinters in the country. I really do. But I have to follow these Lasix rules like everybody else."

Mia's Crusade wins second consecutive Spruce Fir Handicap

Monmouth Park Press Release

After seven months off, Mia's Crusade picked up where she left off, proving her gameness and determination with yet another win against New Jersey-breds.

The 5-year-old daughter of Greenpointcrusader had to dig in through the late stages of the stretch, finally sticking her neck in front of a stubborn Bel Pensiero to capture the 28th running of the $85,000 Spruce Fir Handicap May 18.

The winning time for the 6 furlongs was 1:11.55.

Owned by Prancing Horse Farm (Joseph and Gayle Ioia) and trained by Chuck Spina, Mia's Crusade earned her third straight win in a state-bred stakes company and fourth overall. She now has a 6-2-2 line from 15 career starts at Monmouth Park and is 5-for-10 at the 6-furlong distance.

She had not raced since winning the Pinot Grigio Handicap on the grass at The Meadowlands Oct. 6.

"Bel Pensiero gave us a heck of a challenge," said Spina. "She runs great fresh. She's won off a layoff three different times now. The layoff didn't affect her at all. I was afraid of Bel Pensiero.

"I don't think I've ever won three stakes in a row with the same horse. I was pleased with her effort."

Ridden by Jomar Torres, who has been aboard her for her past 14 starts, Mia's Crusade was fifth in a bunched-up group down the backside. Torres had her three-wide coming out of the turn with Bel Pensiero and Sadie Baby dueling in the mix before Mia's Crusader and Bel Pensiero separated from the five other fillies and mares.

Those two dueled nose-to-nose for the final sixteenth before Mia's Crusade surged in front.

She paid $4 to win as the favorite.

"It set up really well for her," said Torres. "She always gets up for me. I just waited for the moment and she responded very well. She always tries and just keeps fighting. I was not worried about getting by. I knew she would get her head in front. That's the type of horse she is. She always tries hard, like she did today."

Mia's Crusade also won the Spruce Fir a year ago, one of four state-bred stakes wins she now has.

"If it was sloppy she would go wire-to-wire," said Spina. "Otherwise she stalks. This is the way she races.

"She was never more than 3 lengths out of it. She's just so honest. . . It's amazing."

Spina started her next in the 1-mile Smart N Classy for Jersey-bred fillies and mares June 2 at Monmouth Park. She gave way late after pressing the pace and finished sixth.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

July/August 2024

President's message

Congratulations to Caroline Cooper, Bill Thompson, Arlee Arkofa and Jim Chandley for their horses' victories. Also, well done to all who had their horses make it to the track and are in training.

A shout-out to Arlee Arkofa's O'Conner Sunset, who has run five times this year, won four and came in second once. Meanwhile, my horse has been laid up this year in Ocala. Hopefully, his throat surgery will result in an improved race record.

Let's welcome our new members, Bonnie Herring and Linda Epley, who have made an exciting addition to our racing community. They have acquired the son of Mendelssohn, Mendelssohns Red, to stand at stud in North Carolina. We all recall Mendelssohn's illustrious racing career and exceptional pedigree, and we can't help but be thrilled about the potential of Mendelssohns Red. He is now standing at Single B Farm, https://singlebfarm.com/mendelssohns-red, and we eagerly await his progeny's successes.

I am keenly anticipating the new NCTA leadership and their new ideas and changes to our organization. As always, thank you for your continued support.

–Rebecca

Race Reviews

O'Conner Sunset, by Curlin out of Miss Sunset, by Into Mischief, won at Mountaineer Park May 6 for owner Arlee Arkofa. The bay 4-year-old colt ran 1 mile on a fast dirt track in 1:40.32. O'Connor Sunset stalked the pace until the quarter pole, where he drew clear to cross the wire 6¼ lengths ahead.

O'Conner Sunset won again at Mountaineer Park May 21, running 1 mile in 1:40.68. In 2024, he has been in the money 100 percent of the time, with four wins and one secon place finish from five races.

Fletcher, by Biofeld out of Missdixieactivist, by Activist, won May 16 at Penn National for breeder and owner James Chandley. The 4-year-old dark bay colt ran 1 1/16 miles on a fast dirt track in 1:44.02. Fletcher set a fast pace at running two wide, fell to second entering the stretch, and made a three-wide bid at the quarter pole to regain the lead and win by 2½ lengths.

Change the Play, by Audible out of Fort Afleet, by Northern Afleet, won at Tampa Bay Downs April 27 for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast dirt track in 1:11.52. Change the Play was bumped at the start leaving the gate, chased in the fifth position, came five-wide while moving up late to win by a length.

German-bred **Atomic Blonde**, by The Grey Gatsby out of Alwina, by Areion, ran second April 26 at Keenland in the Bewitched Stakes for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership. The 5-year-old grey mare ran 1½ miles on the turf.

Loki's Lightning, by Goldencents out of Bear's Lighting, by Maria's Mon, ran second May 24 at Charles Town for owner Bill Thompson. The 4-year-old grey or roan filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Loki's Lightning was third May 4, running 4½ furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Bourbon Diversion, by Bellamy Road out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr, ran third April 27 at Foxfield for breeders and owners William and Carrington Price. The 5-year-old dark bay mare ran 2⅛ miles over hurdles.

Flat Out Flying, by Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge, ran third May 1 at Parx Racing for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 8-year-old chestnut gelding ran 1 mile and 70 yards on a fast dirt track.

Taproom, by Tapiture out of L.A. Style, by Scat Daddy, was third at Woodbine May 5 for owner Bill Thompson. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 6 furlongs on an all-weather track.

Taproom returned at Woodbine to be third May 24, running 1 1/16 miles over the all-weather track.

Managing Mischief, by Maximus Mischief out of Enchanting Essence, by Midshipman, ran third May 11 in the Goldfinch Stakes at Prairie Meadows for owner Carolina Cooper in partnership. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Greatandgood, by Great Notion out of So Stunning, by Jump Start, finished third at Charles Town May 24 for owner Arlee Arkofa. The 4-year-old dark bay gelding ran 7 furlongs on a fast dirt track.

Contrivance, by Mor Spirit out of Legato, by Where's the Ring, ran third at Pimlico May 24 for breeder and owner Bill Thompson. The 3-year-old bay gelding contested 5 furlongs on a good turf course.

Hitting the Board

April 25 – May 24, 2024

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
26-Apr	Atomic Blonde	Keeneland G3 300K Bewitched S	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	2nd
27-Apr	Bourbon Diversion	Foxfield - Hurdles	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
27-Apr	Change the Play	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	WINNER!
1-May	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	3rd
4-May	Loki's Lightning	Charles Town	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
5-May	O'Connor Sunset	Mountaineer	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	WINNER!
5-May	Taproom	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
11-May	Managing Mischief	Prairie Meadows $50K Gold Finch S	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	3rd
16-May	Fletcher	Penn National	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	WINNER!
21-May	O'Conner Sunset	Mountaineer	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	WINNER!
24-May	Contrivance	Pimlico	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
24-May	Greatandgood	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	3rd
24-May	Loki's Lightning	Charles Town	Owned by Bill Thompson	2nd
24-May	Taproom	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

July/August 2024
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
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A Lucky Purchase

By Patti Reed

Kim Pratt photo

Rolling down the highway with a load of mares and foals headed to Lexington, Ky., Jay Metzler explained how he acquired a stakes-producing broodmare and got into the Thoroughbred breeding business. "I was at Ed Price's Mohns Hill Farm, and he asked me if I wanted to see a mare he had for sale. I said sure, and he showed me the mare, Polarized. Since I have a show horse background, I look at horses differently than race horse trainers do. I thought she was a nice show horse prospect because she is a good-looking mare and a good mover, so I bought her. She already had Aoife's Magic, but she hadn't raced yet. Just a few days ago, Polarized had a nice colt by Smarty Jones, so now I have a full brother to Aoife's Magic."

A jack-of-all-trades, Jay Metzler operates a horse transportation business from WinRose Farm called equine limousine service based in Quakertown, Pa. He specializes in mare and foal transportation and is on call 24/7 for emergency trips to local veterinary hospitals. His customized tractor trailer is configured for eight box stalls or 15 single stalls. "I have quite a few great private clients in the area, like Pat Chapman and Rodney Eckenrode at Equistar Farm. I brought the stallion Brody's Cause up from Kentucky to Equistar in Annville," said Metzler. "I treat all horses with the same special care whether they're million-dollar race horses or show ponies. I have a smaller goose neck trailer too for local runs.

A Lucky Purchase continued from page 1

"My background is with hunters and jumpers, but I like all disciplines, and I ship some Arabians and van horses to shows and events and breeding farms and race tracks. After I bought Polarized, I sent her to a friend to ride and school. I buy race horses and retrain them as hunters or jumpers, so I've had experience with horses off the track. Polarized had some good days, but she just didn't seem to adapt to the routine, so I decided to breed her to Smarty Jones again. Polarized is a winner by Drosselmeyer out of a Citidancer mare named Immune to Gloom," explained Jay.

Polarize, now 10, raced at 2 and 3 at Penn National and won over $73,000. As a 2-year-old, she broke her maiden second time out in a maiden special weight and was fourth in the $100,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies Stakes. She ran 12 times and had two wins, but she was injured at 3 and retired from racing.

"Last year, Polarized had a filly by Smarty Jones. She is a full sister to Aoife's Magic, so when Aoife's Magic ran for the first time last September at Parx and won by over 10 lengths, it was exciting," said Metzler. "Aoife's Magic is trained by David Dotolo and owned by A and J Racing Stable. She was undefeated at 2, winning four races including two PA-bred stakes, the Imply Stakes and the Miss Behaviour Stakes at Parx. She's won over $280,000."

Smarty Jones inspects his 2024 colt out of Polarized, supervised by Rodney Eckenrode.

Aoife's Magic was named 2023 Parx Horse of the Year. This year she's run three times, finishing fourth in the Busher Stakes at Aqueduct in her 3-year-old debut, followed by a third in the Beyond The Wire Stakes at Laurel Park, and a fourth in the Unique Bella Stakes at Parx.

"Aoife's trainer David Dotolo wanted to try her in open races and against tougher competition. We'll see how she does this year," said Metzler. "I sold Aoife's full sister to the same people, and Dotolo will train her too. They're great people, and David's a good horseman. He takes his time and does what's best for the horse, so that's why I sold her to them.

"She'll have the same connections and go through the same program as Aoife's Magic. I'm not just concerned with the money, I want to do what's best for the horses. There are already several people interested in the colt that was just born.

"I don't race horses, so I'll probably sell him too" said Metzler. "Pennsylvania has such a great breeder's program, I'll be happy with breeder's rewards. Owning Polarized turned into a lucky outcome for me."

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Please mark your calendars for PA Day at the Races on August 26 at PARX. Once again, $1,000,000 in purses will be up for grabs as the entire day will showcase all registered PA-Breds. Four $100,000 Stakes will be run which includes the 7 fur. PA-Sired PA-Bred Jump Start Stakes for 3 & up.

Current PHBA members can come on out for a fantastic fun-filled day which includes a lunch buffet, a gift and a chance to mingle with other breeders from across the state. Early nominations for the PA Day Stakes close on July 8 for a $200 fee.

The PA-Sired PA-Bred series has been expanded for foals of 2022 to include 3yos. Replacing the trainer bonus this year will be a $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third. This bonus will be paid after the 3yo races in 2025.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless the beginning in 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Go PA!!

JUST ONE LENGTH FROM IMMORTALITY!

The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, The Pennsylvania Breeders Association, Parx Racing, and all of America Salute...

SMARTY JONES

ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINNING THE KENTUCKY DERBY AND PREAKNESS!

Photo by Barbara D. Livingston

SMARTY JONES with Jockey Stewart Elliott in the 2004 Kentucky Derby Winner's Circle. Owned by Someday Farm (Roy and Pat Chapman) Trained by John Servis

Smarty Jones IS "The People's Champion!" A real-life equine "Rocky" story straight out of Philadelphia, PA.

- 9 Lifetime Races: 8 Wins, 1 Second Place
- 7 Stakes Victories
- $7,613,155 Lifetime Earnings
- 107 Beyer Speed Figure in The Kentucky Derby, **HIGHER** than American Pharoah and Justify
- Won The Preakness by a **RECORD 11 1/2 LENGTHS** with an **all-time highest** 118 Beyer Speed Figure
- Drew a **RECORD CROWD** of 120,139 fans to The Belmont Stakes

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through April 30, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	149,295	74,504	223,799	Pewter Stable	59,120	18,450	77,570
Warriors Reward	118,811	45,529	164,340	Blackstone Farm LLC	70,672	0	70,672
Steven W. Young Racing LLC dba A1A Racing	95,946	33,344	129,290	Glenn E. Brok LLC	49,488	13,474	62,962
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	109,900	109,900	Peter Giangiulio	47,139	998	48,137
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	39,276	45,754	85,030	William P. Brady Est	48,110	0	48,110

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	161	74,504	Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	81	31,638
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	99	45,529	Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	37	22,285
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	84	45,437	Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	74	21,722
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	92	42,977	Winchill	Pewter Stable	51	18,450
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	76	33,344	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	18	9,356

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. **Denotes PA-sired*

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	10	52,800	21,120	5,280	0	79,200
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	10	55,200	11,040	0	0	66,240
Powwa of Love *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	40	0	33,600	8,400	24,000	66,000
Confirmed Star *	Uptowncharlybrown - Its My Town	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	30	0	29,480	7,370	14,200	51,050
Respirator *	Peace and Justice - La Padrina	Dennis Johnson	50	0	25,200	6,300	18,000	49,500
Ron Don Scorese	Normandy Invasion - Siege	Hope Hill Farm	50	0	20,272	0	28,960	49,232
Uncle Ernie *	Talent Search - Mary Cole	Gilman Hallenbeck	30	8,800	21,328	5,332	12,720	48,180
Bunny Bonus *	Xixixi - Easter Bonus	Barbara A. Rickline	60	0	24,142	6,035	17,244	47,421
Gray Lightning *	Social Inclusion - Fairy Gray	Desmond C. Wynter	20	0	26,640	6,660	12,000	45,300
Social Lady *	Social Inclusion - Graemy	Glenn E. Brok LLC	40	0	26,400	6,600	12,000	45,000

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Racing Across the Nation

Three graduates of South Carolina training centers and one horse who calls Camden home, won stakes between April 22 and May 11.

On April 22, **Far Mo Power** was 11th and last trailing the leader by 13 lengths after the opening quarter-mile in the Page McKenney Handicap at Parx Racing. This 6-year-old gelding then began to launch his bid advancing on the inside on the turn, swung to the outside, flew by the field in the stretch and won by 1¼ lengths. In 17 career starts, Far Mo Power has eight wins, three seconds and four thirds, raking in $450,000 in earnings. He learned his early lessons from Randy and Kala Rentz.

Five days later, April 27, **Uncorked (Aus)** proved best in the Royal Heroine Stakes-G3 at Santa Anita. Uncorked sat back and saved ground during the run down the backside and around the turn for home. At the top of the stretch, she made her move taking the lead inside the eighth-pole and drew clear to win by 3 lengths. This mare spent time with Donna Freyer at her Custom Care Equine operation in Camden.

Sea Streak was much the best in the Long Branch Stakes at Monmouth Park May 11. Developed for his racing career at the Travis Durr Training Center, Sea Streak stalked the leader during the opening half-mile. He took command in the final turn and ran away from the field in the stretch, crossing the finish line 7¼ lengths in front. In only eight career starts, Sea Streak has two wins, three seconds and a third while earning $204,110.

Also May 11, the 7-year old gelding, **Abaan** recorded his fourth win in a race over hurdles, including three stakes wins. At the Iroquois Steeplechase meet near Nashville, Abaan faced only two others in the Green Pastures Stakes.

Abaan calls Camden home. He is trained by Kate Dalton and has been ridden in all of his starts by her husband Bernie. In the Green Pastures, Dalton had Abaan relaxed for the opening 1½ miles of this 2¼-mile race. He then asked Abaan the question and the horse immediately responded. When clearing the final fence in front, Abaan was a convincing winner by 2¾ lengths.

In a career over the flat and now jumps, Abaan has eight wins, including five stakes, and has earned $621,290.

South Carolina well represented at Midlantic Sale

South Carolina-based consignors were busy at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Timonium, the Monday and Tuesday following the running of the Preakness Stakes, May 20 and 21.

Cary Frommer was the consignor of fillies by Candy Ride (Arg), Honor A. P., Practical Joke, Twirling Candy and Warrior's Reward, colts by Liam's Map and Catalina Cruiser, and an Isotherm gelding. This group of eight sold for $425,000.

Wes Carter saw six sell. His group consisted of colts by Game Winner, Kantheros, Catholic Boy, Mendelssohn and Central Banker, and a filly by Goldencents. This group brought a total of $235,000.

James Layden said good-bye to fillies by Unified, Hard Spun and Caravaggio, and a Gun Runner colt. They brought a total of $199,000.

Marcus and Crystal Ryan sold four under their Mason Springs banner. They sold colts by Union Rags and War of Will and fillies by Practical Joke and Upstart for a total of $135,000.

Holly Hill Training Center was the consignor of filles by Yoshida (Jpn) and Mendelssohn and a colt by Uncle Lino. This trio sold for a total of $85,000.

South Carolina Equine Advancement Act update

Unfortunately, we have lost the battle this year getting the South Carolina Equine Advancement Act to the Senate floor for a vote. We still have confidence, though, that we will ultimately gain the opportunity to allow Advance Deposit Wagering in South Carolina which will benefit the equine industry across our state.

A press conference was held at the Statehouse in Columbia May 7. Senator Katrina Shealy, House Representative Russell Ott, Frank Mullins, President of the Aiken Steeplechase Association, and SCTOBA members Debby McCutchen, Jack Sadler and Daphne Wooten spoke on behalf of the Bill.

The support is there, however, due to Senate rules, a Senator from Charleston was able to block the Bill from reaching the Senate Floor for a vote. We believe this is an obstacle we can overcome early in the 2025 session.

Tilted Tiara wins four in a row

The Franklin "Goree " Smith South Carolina-bred Tilted Tiara won four races in a row, all this year. The 5-year-old mare by Smith's stallion Done Talking, out of Crown Me Now, by E Dubai, scored three at Penn National and one at Charles Town. She has eight wins, two seconds and four thirds in 27 lifetime starts.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
FAR MO POWER	Rentz Farm Training Center	04/22/24	Parx Racing	Page McKenney H
Natures Candy	Rentz Farm Training Center	04/23/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Moon Charger	Travis Durr Training Center	04/25/24	Belterra Park	Maiden Special Weight
Vax a Nation	Custom Care - D. Freyer	04/27/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
UNCORKED (AUS)	Custom Care - D. Freyer	04/27/24	Santa Anita	Royal Heroine S-G3
Animal Kingston	Neil Morris	04/27/24	Foxfield	Maiden Special Weight
Profitability	Travis Durr Training Center	04/29/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Party at Sam's	Rentz Farm Training Center	04/29/24	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Capital Conquest	Travis Durr Training Center	04/30/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Little Ms Sunshine	Rentz Farm Training Center	04/30/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Malibu Cowboy	Rentz Farm Training Center	04/30/24	Mountaineer	Allowance
Mister B	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/01/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Answer the Call	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/01/24	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Mystic Pleasure	Custom Care - D. Freyer	05/02/24	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Dr. Kraft	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/02/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Point Pelee	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/02/24	Penn National	Allowance
Sundance Feature	Travis Durr Training Center	05/03/34	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Little Baby Girl	Travis Durr Training Center	05/03/24	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Cloud in the Wind	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/03/24	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
A Primera Vista	Mason Springs	05/04/24	Tampa Bay	Allowance
Find Your Joy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	05/06/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Mybronxbaby	Travis Durr Training Center	05/06/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Bustin Away	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/06/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Mosler Time	Travis Durr Training Center	05/09/24	Pimlico	Allowance
Jay Jay Dee	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/09/24	Charles Town	Allowance
Lemon Bomb	Travis Durr Tng Ctr/Peter Pugh	05/11/24	Belterra Park	Allowance
Emberly	Aiken-Rebecca Hurt	05/11/24	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
SEA STREAK	Travis Durr Training Center	05/11/24	Monmouth Park	Long Branch S
Little Ni	Travis Durr Training Center	05/11/24	Monmouth Park	Allowance
ABAAN	Kate Dalton	05/11/24	Iroquois	The Green Pastures S
Gold Luck	Travis Durr Training Center	05/12/24	Churchill Downs	Starter Allowance
Beren	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/13/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Bustin Time	Travis Durr Training Center	05/14/24	Finger Lakes	Allllowance
Eff Thirty Five	Custom Care-D. Freyer	05/17/24	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Vodka With a Twist	McCutchen Training Center	05/17/24	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Sacred Wish	Aiken - Cary Frommer	05/17/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Talented Man	Travis Durr Training Center	05/17/24	Pimlico	Allowance
Lucky Speech	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/17/24	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Conceputualize	Travis Durr Training Center	05/18/24	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Union Fleet	Travis Durr Training Center	05/18/24	Pimlico	Allowance
Gravity Hill	Travis Durr Training Center	05/18/24	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Blue Nile	Richard Valentine	05/18/24	Radnor	Maiden Special Weight
Bustin Away	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/20/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Dontpasstheprinces	Rentz Farm Training Center	05/20/24	Parx Racing	Allowance

VIRGINIA

WAGERING AVAILABLE ON STEEPLECHASE RACING AT COLONIAL DOWNS THIS SUMMER

Steeplechase racing will be showcased on six different Thursdays throughout the 2024 summer racing season at Colonial Downs and for the first time in several years, pari-mutuel wagering will be offered on the entire jump slate — 18 races in all. Three jump races will be contested on the following Thursdays — July 11 (opening day), July 18, August 1, August 8, August 22 and September 5.

First race each Thursday is 11:45 AM and all three will be completed in time for Colonial's first scheduled flat race at 1:30 PM. Steeplechase riders will use the regular jockey's room on the track's front side and horses will saddle in the paddock. The jump races will be available to watch and wager via Colonial's simulcast signal. In addition to regular bets, there will be an All-Steeplechase Pick-3 and two daily doubles that cover races 1-2 and 2-3.

The first of two Colonial Downs condition books is out and available online via the track's website. Conditions for four of the six jump days are included and feature four $50,000 maiden hurdles, a pair of $55,000 allowance hurdles and a $50,000 filly/mare maiden hurdle among others. A pair of $100,000 filly and mare stakes highlight the schedule — the Randolph D. Rouse on August 8 and the Life's Illusion on September 5. Both will be run at the 2 ¼ miles distance. More details are available at nationalsteeplechase.com.

Virginia-Certified Book'em Danno won the Grade 2 Woody Stephens Stakes at Saratoga (Susie Raisher photo)

COLONIAL DOWNS SUMMER STAKES SCHEDULE RECOGNIZES HISTORIC VIRGINIA-BRED HALL OF FAMER

The 9-week summer thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs will be conducted from July 11 through September 7 with racing every Thursday through Saturday. Post time is 11:45 AM on Thursday, 4:30 PM on Friday and 1:30 PM on Saturday. The popular "Festival of Racing" program will return August 10 and feature the Grade 1 Arlington Million, Grade 2 Beverly D ($500,000 purse) and Grade 2 Secretariat Stakes ($500,000). The Million will be run at 1-1/4 miles, the Beverly D. will be contested at 1-3/16 miles and the Secretariat will cover one mile. All three races will be held on Colonial's acclaimed Secretariat Turf Course.

The Beverly D. has again been selected as a Breeders' Cup Challenge Win and You're In race for the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf to be held November 2 at Del Mar. Festival Day is being expanded for 2024 to include four additional stakes races: the $100,000 Petramalo Mile, a one-mile dirt race for 3-year-olds and its sister race, the $100,000 Penny Chenery for fillies at seven furlongs; the $150,000 Van Clief for 3-year-olds & up at 5½ furlongs on the turf and its distaff companion event, the $150,000 Andy Guest.

Opening weekend action will be highlighted by a new event — the Million Preview Day card — July 13 that includes three new turf stakes: the $125,000 Arlington Million Prep at 1-1/8 miles; $125,000 Beverly D. Prep over 1-1/16 miles; and the $125,000 Boston at one mile, a prep for the Secretariat.

The Boston Stakes will resonate with fans locally in Central Virginia, which is home to Colonial Downs. Boston, who was bred by Richmond attorney John Wickam and foaled in nearby Henrico County, was America's most accomplished racehorse in an era when thoroughbred racing was the nation's most popular sport. Boston won 40 of 45 known races between 1836 and 1943 on tracks from Georgia to New. York, once in front of a crowd of 70,000. Later a renowned sire, he was an inaugural inductee into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in 1955. He lived from 1833-1850

Boston is a grandson of Sir Archy and was a regal chestnut-colored horse with a white blaze on his nose. During his racing career, he was undefeated as a 4 and 5-year-old starting in 15 races. Thirty of Boston's victories were in four-mile heats and nine were in three-milers. In the era of grueling

marathon contests, Boston was in a class of his own.

Thirteen of his starts took place in Virginia including eight in Petersburg — all of which he won. Post-racing, Boston was the leading sire in 1851, 1852 and 1853 and eventually sired 95 winners of 293 races. Among his noted progeny were Lexington and Lecomte.

To celebrate his importance to Virginia racing, the County of Henrico will dedicate a new historical marker at Boston's foaling location this summer, soon after the inaugural Boston Stakes at Colonial.

ELEVEN STAKES OFFERED FOR VIRGINIA-RESTRICTED HORSES AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Virginia-restricted horses will get plenty of stakes race opportunities in New Kent during the summer meet. On July 20, a four-pack of $125,000 Virginia-bred/sired stakes to be offered include the Brookmeade for fillies and mares at 1-1/16 miles, Edward P. Evans at one mile, the Punch Line and Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty both at 5½ furlongs with the latter restricted to fillies and mares.

Commonwealth Champions Day on August 31 is highlighted by a series of $150,000 turf stakes that are open to Virginia-certified, bred or sired horses — the Meadow Stable for older horses at 5½ furlongs and its female companion race, the Camptown; and the Bert Allen and its filly and mare counterpart, the Nellie Fox, both at 1-1/16 miles. The Jamestown Stakes, for Virginia-bred/sired 2-year-olds, is also on the card.

A pair of 2-year-old dirt races for Virginia-restricted runners at 5-½ furlongs will take place August 3 — the $150,000 Hickory Tree and its sister race, the $150,000 Keswick for fillies.

More than 5,000 horses have participated in the Virginia-Certified Residency program since its inception so Colonial's race office staff could have a large pool of Certified horses to draw from. A total of 40 Virginia-restricted overnight races are offered in the first Condition Book including 14 maiden special weight races with a purse of $75,000 each. Information on these incentive programs can be found at vabred.org.

Larry Johnson's Future Is Now (middle) captured the Grade 2 Intercontinental Stakes (Susie Raisher photo)

VIRGINIA CONNECTED HORSES SHINE AT SARATOGA ON BELMONT STAKES WEEKEND

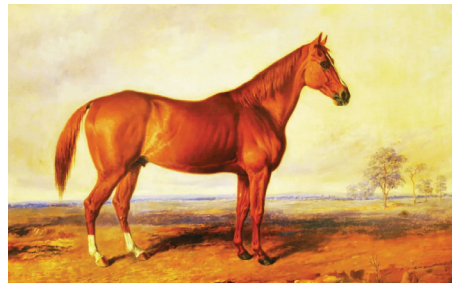
Virginia connected horses had a strong showing at Saratoga during Belmont Stakes weekend. Virginia-Certified Book'em Danno scored a nice Grade 1 win in the Woody Stephens Stakes. The 3-year-old son of Bucchero is a New Jersey-bred who was raised at Gracie Bloodstock in Middleburg before he started competing. Book'em Danno is owned by Atlantic Six Racing and is 5-for-7 now with earnings of $835,625.

Virginia owner/breeder Larry Johnson had quite a weekend. Owner of Legacy Farm in Bluefield, Johnson's 4-year-old filly Future Is Now captured the Grade 2 Intercontinental Stakes in a thrilling photo finish with Paco Lopez up. The Great Notion filly won her fifth career race and pushed her bankroll to $324,935. Future Is Now broke her maiden at Colonial Downs last August.

Johnson bred Belmont Stakes runner-up Mindframe who finished one-half length behind Dornoch in the $2 million stakes. Owned by Repole Stable & St. Elias Stables and trained by Todd Pletcher, Mindframe is now 2-for-3 in his lightly raced career and has earnings of $447,360. He was a $600,000 purchase at the Keeneland Yearling Sale.

Six-year-old thoroughbred mare Didia, who won her first two U.S. starts at Colonial Downs in 2022, captured the $750,000, Grade 1 New York Stakes. Didia won a turf allowance and the Old Nelson Stakes in New Kent that year. Owned by Merriebelle Stable & Resolute Racing, the Ignacio Correas trainee has earnings of $1,533,484.

Jockey Jose Ortiz is all smiles as Didia won the Grade 1 New York Stakes (Adam Coglianese Photography)



Hall of Fame horse Boston will have a highway marker placed in his honor in Central Virginia this summer.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter July/August 2024

Chasing Giants

By Jeff Gilleas

Nationally, as well as, Internationally, most breeders agree the fuel for the Thoroughbred industry is deep-rooted in Kentucky, but prideful local horsemen acknowledge the juice for their survival is sourced from the West Virginia Development Fund and the affluent Breeders Classic. Whittle down the process, and it is an inescapable fact, that a procession of horses from Onion Juice to last year's victor, Coastal Mission, owe a debt of gratitude to the hallmark event.

Walking down memory lane gives one a sense of pride and a connection to the efforts those horses and individuals put forth. The year was 1987, and the inaugural running of the Jim Beam Breeders Classic Trophy went to a battle-scared veteran named **Onion Juice**. A museum piece that chugged through multiple states, while competing at 10 different racetracks, he was owned and trained by Charles Americus "Buck" Woodson Jr. The son of Quartermaster never dodged a challenge, and his long and winding journey paid tribute to Buck's greatest asset and support system, wife Julianna.

For longtime fans of West Virginia Thoroughbred racing, **Cavada** may be the greatest filly/mare to denote the Mountain state as home. That's a bold statement, however every year we honor her memory by naming the primary Breeders Classics distaff race after her. Owned and bred by BeBe Dalton, the daughter of Verification remains the only female to ever win the West Virginia Breeders Classic. An earner of $489,026, she was second in the Delaware Handicap (Grade 2), third in the Konica Long Look (Grade 3) at the Meadowlands, and earned a career best speed figure of 112 while drawing off to a 15½-length allowance score at revered Saratoga.

Confucius Say is one of the greatest equine resources conceived and foaled in West Virginia. A flagship runner for O'Sullivan Farm, the son of Eastover Court achieved a different dimension by attaining entry into the Millionaires Club. Often displaying an aura of invincibility, Confucius Say was a three-peat winner of the Breeders Classic.

Artists create with pen and paper, sometimes a brush and canvas; brilliant horses express themselves through smooth fluidity of movement. My vantage point on Oct. 10, 1999, was the Charles Town Races press box, and the performance by a West Virginia-bred that evening was epic. **A Huevo** entered the Breeders Classic undefeated and untested, and his track record-setting presentation that night was an eloquent portrayal of his willpower and heroism.

I have seen few comparable feats since. Four years later, the Michael Dickinson trained horse would authoritatively capture the Grade I Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash.

Russell Road won 31 races and earned over $2 million in a landmark campaign for owner Mark Russell and breeder Robert Lloyd. The classically-made gelding was a throwback to the old guard. He inspired handicappers with a level of trust and breeders with hope. The son of Wheaton out of Roberta Grump won the West Virginia Breeders Classic three times and was second twice.

Spanning June 2018 to May 2019, **Runnin'toluvya** recorded 10 consecutive victories, including the Frank Gall Memorial, West Virginia Breeders Classic, A Huevo Stakes, Russell Road Overnight Stakes and the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic. During that prolific stretch, the boy bred by Leslie Cromer rose to the heights of a man, under the guidance of trainer Tim Grams, wife Judy and jockey Oscar Flores. On

the biggest stage of the year, he soldiered up to defeat many of racing's finest handicap horses. Though the end of his career was punctuated by periods of devilish conduct, when fully invested in the moment, the roan son of Fiber Sonde was an equine juggernaut.

I almost concluded this Mountain State infomercial with the Gray Rocket, save a chance encounter with the conclusive authority on pedigree, State Veterinarian Chip Daniel. He reminded me that a contemporary runner literally has dueled all local opposition into the ground and could potentially rewrite the record books. Winner to date of $661,000, **Coastal Mission**, a son of Great Notion, has only one blot on his record at Charles Town Races, which consists of 10 wins and one second in 11 starts.

COIN COLLECTOR STAKES

Coin Collector was a horse who raced in the 1990 for owner-trainer and co-breeder John Allen Casey, achieving an almost mythological status. In a pre-slot machine era, where West Virginia-bred horses, and the purses they competed for, were deemed inferior to neighboring Mid-Atlantic states, the son of Weshaam out of Dynamo Dotty, by Quartermaster, blazed a trail of glory up and down the east coast.

Utilizing the motto "have trailer, will travel" the durable dark bay gelding outran expectations, and opponents, winning 12 of 43 starts, placing 10 times, and earning $328,115. Along for the ride of a lifetime was Coin Collector's regular jockey, Lillian "Mich" Kuykendall, a private young woman smitten by the racing bug, who won two West Virginia Breeders Classics aboard the well-traveled gelding, highlighting a career that saw her pile up 1,419 wins.

This May 11 at Charles Town brought uncharacteristically cool temperatures, with intermittent rain. The $75,000 featured Coin Collector Stakes drew a field that delivered an adrenaline fueled rush. On paper, the centerpieces of the race were Marshall Peanut (5-2) and Jubawithatwist (6-5), the latter with honorary chairperson of the Charles Town Races jock's room, Gustavo Larrosa, in the irons. Muddy conditions and an active weather pattern had many handicappers scrambling for runners exhibiting competence over a messy surface.

Most selections landed on the horse unfazed by anything, **Jubawithatwist**, flaunting Kristy Petty's colors. Getting down to business from the bell, the gray gelding chased a hot pace (:21.92, :45.63), avoided a majority of kickback racing outside, and earnestly closed under confident handling for the win. Nearly playing the role of spoiler was the ultra-game Pork Chop Pete, who fell a half length short of triggering the finish line camera first. Third place went to Indicator, a son of Limehouse, who tried to devour the top two runners from the grandstand side of the course.

The field of seven 3-year-olds of rare ability bounded over the muddy/sealed track (compact the top layer to remove excess water) to a final clocking of 51.98 seconds.

Jubawithatwist, is a son of Juba, out of Romantic Cork, was last year's 2-year-old state-bred champion male. He was given the winter off to recharge his batteries, and is currently heralded as K P Racing Stable's marquis star.

Trainer Kristy Petty, with son Allen at her side, humbly accepted the Coin Collector trophy from one of breeder John Casey's best friends, Ronnie Sigler.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868
Fax: (304) 724-7870
www.wvtba.com
Office location:
202 East Liberty St.,Charles Town, WV 25414.
Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

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Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse
Some of the best incentives in the nation!

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

New year, new helmet

Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation says it's a no-brainer: When it comes to jockey safety, it starts at the top

By Betsy Burke Parker

Licensed steeplechase jockeys will benefit from a new program that reimburses the cost of purchasing a new helmet every year.

The Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation initiative joins an existing program that pays to replace the helmet of any licensed rider that takes a fall in a National Steeplechase Association-sanctioned race.

NSA's Rosella Hunter says there are currently 37 licensed riders, 11 of them listed as professionals. All of them are eligible.

Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation president Kathy Neilson, herself an active amateur jockey in the 1990s and early 2000s, says that the helmet upgrade "was made possible by a grant from a generous donor, acknowledging that helmet replacement is an important foundational feature of rider health and welfare, and supporting the NSA's comprehensive safety protocols."

Recognizing the different preferences in brands and styles of active riders, the foundation doesn't "give" helmets to riders; instead, riders can apply for reimbursement each year, paid back up to $500.

To be approved, helmets must carry either the ASTM's SEI label or the British Standards Institute EN 1384, PAS 015.

Another benefit of the reimbursement program is that riders can do their own research and upgrade annually as new science perfects lightweight protection offered by the latest jockey skull cap offerings.

"The new mips technology is ideally going to help prevent concussions or lesson the severity. Hopefully everyone takes advantage of this wonderful opportunity," Neilson says.

How it happened

The new TGSF program got started from a casual conversation.

"I'd (given) a presentation at the NSA race chair meeting in Charlottesville in January, letting them know who TGSF is and what we do," says TGSF director Alissa Norman. Charlottesville-based amateur jockey Zach Miller "came up to me at cocktail hour and pitched the idea for new helmets annually for jockeys. I liked it, and sent it on to our trustees.

"The trustees loved the idea, but we couldn't make it work in our existing budget. This is where Zach was able to work his magic," identifying and securing a grant donor.

"I pitched the idea of funding a proactive replacement program" to the donor, Miller says. "It was approved by my organization, and through the heroic efforts of Alissa and Rosella to package the logistics of implementation in a way that the TGSF board could get behind, we're up and running."

"The Gwathmey Foundation provides the necessary 501(c)3 non-profit beneficiary-status needed for acceptance and distribution of the funds from Zach's organization," Norman explains the nuances of the generous funding. "One of TGSF's chief missions is safety, so this fits right into our story, and bolsters the program we already have in place for jockeys that replaces helmets after they have had a fall."

Hunter says riders can certainly keep their year-old helmets, as long as they haven't had a fall in it. "Riders are encouraged to purchase a race-only helmet with these funds," she says, "retiring their existing one to daily riding out and schooling.

"Race day helmets should be replaced annually, regardless of condition, even if it hasn't sustained the impact of a fall. This program will make that practice attainable.

"Our goal is to have each and every one of our eligible jockeys in a new helmet as soon as possible."

Riders that have already purchased a helmet this year can apply for reimbursement retroactively.

Norman notes that the new helmet-every-year program does not take the place of an existing Gwathmey Foundation program which replaces safety helmets when a

jockey has a fall.

Long an NSA steward and one of the association's safety commissioners, former professional jump rider and longtime physician's assistant Gregg Morris is impressed with both the replacement and renewal programs. "This sounds like an important project," Morris says, noting that standards have methodically improved over the years as knowledge of medical science tracks manufacturing capabilities. "I was a vest-less, caliente helmet guy for pretty much the duration of my riding career."

Morris had teamed with Vanderbilt University surgeon Dr. Craig Ferrell in 2013 to create the original baseline concussion test still used for jump riders today.

What they're saying:

NSA president Al Griffin:

"Champion (a British brand of jockey skull caps, riding helmets and other safety gear) had a big discount on them for licensed jockeys for a short period of time (back in the 1980s), but this is a first for an annual free helmet to start the season."

Jockey Parker Hendriks:

"I wear a KEP helmet, an Italian brand. I buy mine from jockeytack.com in Florida.

I've worn them for about five years now and don't think I'll change out of them anytime soon. They cost about $650. I like them because they fit my head really well, and they're light.

I have used the (helmet replacement) program a couple times before, and I try and get a new one if I hit my head or every season.

I have one (KEP helmet) for riding out, one for racing and a spare one.

I had a bad fall last May, and I'm lucky it wasn't any worse than it was. (I believe that) my helmet protected me well, though I'm not sure I can quantify that.

I really appreciate the TGSF paying for a majority of our helmets, and it's good to encourage people to replace their helmets regularly."

Jockey Bernie Dalton:

"I wear an (English-made) Champion (skull cap.) I find them a good fit.

I (was already in the habit to) get a new one each season and use the old one for riding out.

I haven't yet used the TGSF program funds but I should!"

Jockey Harrison Beswick:

"I am currently wearing a Champion.

Jockeys Bernie Dalton and Gerard Galligan. *©Tod Marks*

They're around $300.

I don't plan to change – they fit very well.

I have taken advantage of the very charitable Temple Gwathmey Foundation program. . . I had a very bad fall at Aiken last year, and they reimbursed the purchase of my new helmet in full.

I currently have one helmet for riding out and my other for racing.

I've never really strayed far from the Champion or Charles Owen in my career. I've always felt very safe and comfortable in them.

This (extra help from the TGS) fund and the other means of support towards jockeys are vital and very much appreciated by all of us."

Impact study

A 2015 Jockeys' Guild study underlined what most horsemen knew already – helmets involved in a fall should be replaced.

The study was conducted at Chesapeake Testing in Belcamp, Maryland, and it provided customized testing to mimic a fall on dirt or being stepped on by a horse.

The tests, standardized by ASTM International, involved a monorail drop-tower that plunged a headform onto dirt or a steel equestrian anvil that mimicked the angled edge of a horse's hoof.

Researchers dropped the helmets to measure the peak Gs, or acceleration, read by sensors inside the helmet.

Three-dimensional scans were taken of the helmets before and after impact. Researchers noted that visual inspection wasn't enough, as most of the helmet brands looked the same before and after impact.

But, after impact, the protective, high-density foam inside the helmet was compressed.

Even though the helmet looked great on the outside, it was compromised.

Summer Jumps Racing

Belmont at Saratoga
Sunday, June 9
$150,000 Beverly R. Steinman (Gr.1)

Colonial Downs
Thursday, July, 11
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$50,000 Maiden Filly/Mare Hurdle
$55,000 Allowance (NW2) Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, July 17
$150,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, July 18
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$35,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, July 31
$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 1
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Maiden Starter Hurdle
$55,000 Allowance (NW2) Hurdle

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 8
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$35,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$100,000 Randolph Rouse (Filly/Mare) Hurdle Stakes

Saratoga
Wednesday, August 14
$150,000 Jonathan Sheppard Memorial (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, August 22
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$50,000 Maiden (4YO) Hurdle
$30,000 Maiden Starter Hurdle

Saratoga
Wednesday, August 28
$75,000 Michael G. Walsh Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Thursday, September 5
$50,000 Maiden Hurdle
$30,000 Ratings Handicap Hurdle
$100,000 Life's Illusion (Filly/Mare) Hurdle Stakes

Colonial Downs
Friday, September 6
$50,000 Flat Race for Jumpers

Belmont at Aqueduct
Thursday, September 19
$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial (Novice) Hurdle Stakes
$150,000 Lonesome Glory (Gr.1) Hurdle Stakes

— Classifieds —

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— Looking Back —

75 years ago

■ After trying for years to organize widely scattered breeding interests, the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association was incorporated. Considerable advice and help in getting past the initial stages was furnished by the directors of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

In the first few months of the PHBA's existence, membership grew rapidly. Officers were Arthur E. Pew Jr. of Bryn Mawr, president; Henry Cadwalader of Ambler, vice-president; and David Dallas Odell, of Malvern, secretary and treasurer. A.A. Craven was the assistant secretary.

■ The complete dispersal of Walter P. Chrysler's North Wales Stud was underway, as Humphrey Finney noted in his Editor's Saddle-Bag: "June 2. Today we are at Belmont Park, to aid in the dispersal sale of the racehorses from Walter Chrysler's stable, as well as a group of other Thoroughbreds. Prices have been remarkably good, with Larry MacPhail adding three well-bred fillies to his stable, they being destined for the stud before long." The North Wales yearlings and breeding stock (more than 100 in all) were to ship from the Warrenton, Va., farm to be sold at Saratoga in August.

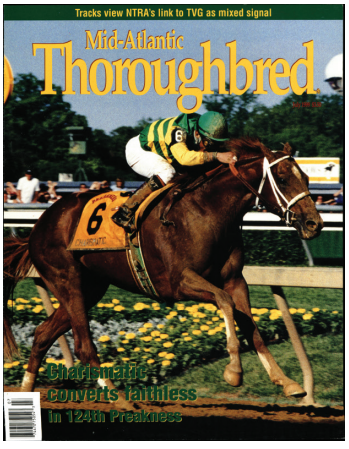
■ Finney's book *Stud Farm Diary*, initially released by *The Blood-Horse* in 1936, was re-released by Blue Ridge Press of Berryville, Va. It was a compilation of columns Finney wrote for *The Blood-Horse* titled "A Stud Farm Diary" under the pen name "Nothing Venture" about his managing of Holly Beach Farm Stud in Maryland.

■ The majority of Maryland horsemen were competing in Delaware and New Jersey, with a scattering in Detroit and New York, while a few were in New England. Among regional standouts was Harry La Montagne's "big husky Conniver" who hadn't been running well that spring, but rallied late to take the Butler Handicap over Palestinian at the Empire-at-Jamaica meet.

BAGLEY

Mrs. Graham Boyce's Doughoregan Manor Show Pony Champion and Reserve in 1949: Irv Naylor (now steeplechasing's all-time leading owner by earnings) on Honey Bee and Billy Boyce aboard Spice.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm-bred Loser Weeper accounted for three of four starts, including the Metropolitan (at Belmont) and Valley Forge (Garden State) handicaps.


Tracks view NTRA's link to TVG as mixed signal
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Charismatic converts faithless in 124th Preakness

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

25 years ago

■ Charismatic and Chris Antley were "the story of the Triple Crown, and likely of this racing year," wrote editor Tim Capps in summing up the classic season. The hot and cold relationship of fans and the industry with trainer D. Wayne Lukas added to the story. "It is obvious that Lukas couldn't figure him out for a long time, and while he'll never admit it, he was probably ready to give up on the horse and send him packing more than once," wrote Capps. "In the end, though, the horse who fooled Lukas may have given him his finest hour as a trainer. Charismatic couldn't win the Belmont, but he beat the horses other people kept insisting were better than him . . . His injury in the final yards of the [Belmont] underscored the colt's class and will to win, attributes that are the hallmark of the finest of his breed. . . The scene after the race, of a weary and tearful Antley trying to protect the horse who, in three races, revived his career and his life will remain a fixture in our mind's eye.

"There was tragedy and yet victory in that moment, and it's our thought that American racing came away from it all a bit better understood and appreciated for the courage and nobility of the equine athletes and the humans who work with them."

■ Real Quiet joined an elite group, that of Preakness/Pimlico Special winners. It had been 50 years since Capot accomplished the feat in 1949 (when the Special was run in the fall); others included Citation, Challedon, War Admiral, Whirlaway and Assault.

Trained by Bob Baffert, Real Quiet battled Free House (the Preakness runner-up two years earlier) and won by a neck. Baffert and Real Quiet's owner Mike Pegram enjoyed Preakness Week. They also won the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 with champion Silverbulletday and the Miss Preakness Stakes with undefeated graded stakes-winning Maryland-bred Hookedonthefeelin, a daughter of Maryland sire Citidancer.

■ The history of Old Keswick, near Charlottesville, Va., was chronicled –from the 1952 purchase by Mrs. Ellsworth H. "Betty" Augustus Knight, to the success of her daughter Peggy Augustus – complete with a timeline, list of broodmares in residence, roster of stakes winners, world sales toppers and Peggy's views on breeding at the highest level.

50 years ago

■ The Thoroughbred Racing Associations' selection committee named Maryland-bred Twixt the nation's leading older filly or mare for the first half of the 1974 racing season. The poll was conducted by a committee of racing secretaries, *Daily Racing Form* experts and members of the National Turf Writers.

Bred by Mr. and Mrs. John B. Merryman and owned in partnership by the Merrymans and Mrs. John M. Franklin, the 5-year-old mare won four of seven starts during the first six months of the year, including Hollywood Park's Milady Handicap. By Maryland's leading sire Restless Native, Twixt was trained by the Merrymans' daughter Katy Voss, who gave as much credit to Nat Johnson, the Merrymans' assistant trainer who had been working with the family for more than a dozen years.

■ Halo was purchased by E.P. Taylor to stand at Windfields Farm in Chesapeake City, Md. The superbly-bred stakes-winning son of Hail to Reason out of Cosmah had been sold the previous year by Mrs. Charles Engelhard's Cragwood Estates to London film producer Irving Allen for $600,000 but Allen refused to accept the horse when he discovered that he was a cribber. Sent back to the track, Halo added two stakes wins in 1974, highlighted by the Grade 1 United Nations Handicap.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Twixt and a few of her crew (left to right): Mickey Owens, Ralph Williams, John Merryman, Nat Johnson and Ralph Gardner.

■ Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting was launching a 30-minute fan-oriented weekly television program in the Baltimore and Salisbury areas titled *The Starting Gate*, with the focus "to provide the average Thoroughbred racing fan with a greater understanding of the sport," said producer Richard Hoffman. Included would be a 10-minute "Feature of the Week" on a variety of topics, including The Life of a Groom, How an Announcer Calls a Race, and The Workings of a Horse Auction.

■ C. Oliver Goldsmith sold four-time stakes-winning homebred Leematt to R.J. Sherman of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The 6-year-old captured the Carter and Toboggan handicaps in New York two years earlier. "We have a whole factory of Leematt's bloodlines," Goldsmith explained, including the father, mother (with a full-brother at her side), a sister and three half-sisters at Longwood Farm in Glenwood, Md. The gray sprinter was by Turn to Reason out of Sun Rondeau, by Bull Brier, and named for the Goldsmiths' longtime employee LeRoy Matthews.

Goldsmith also disclosed that he had five or six mares in foal to Leematt as a result of breeding the horse during the spring in between his racetrack appearances.

Leematt later that year broke a track record at Keystone, officially entered stud the next year and stood in Pennsylvania until his death in the early 1990s. He was one of Pennsylvania's leading sires, and for years had a stakes named in his honor.

■ Services to Maryland sires Impressive and Bold Monarch and Virginia stallion Limit to Reason would be part of the prize for the Sadie Hawkins Stakes, one of three new added-money events during Shenandoah racetrack's summer meet.

Owners of the first three finishers in the Sadie Hawkins will pick one of the three, with the winner getting first choice. The Sadie Hawkins was named for Al Capp's famous man-chasing cartoon character and modeled after the Matchmaker, a $100,000 event run annually at Atlantic City.

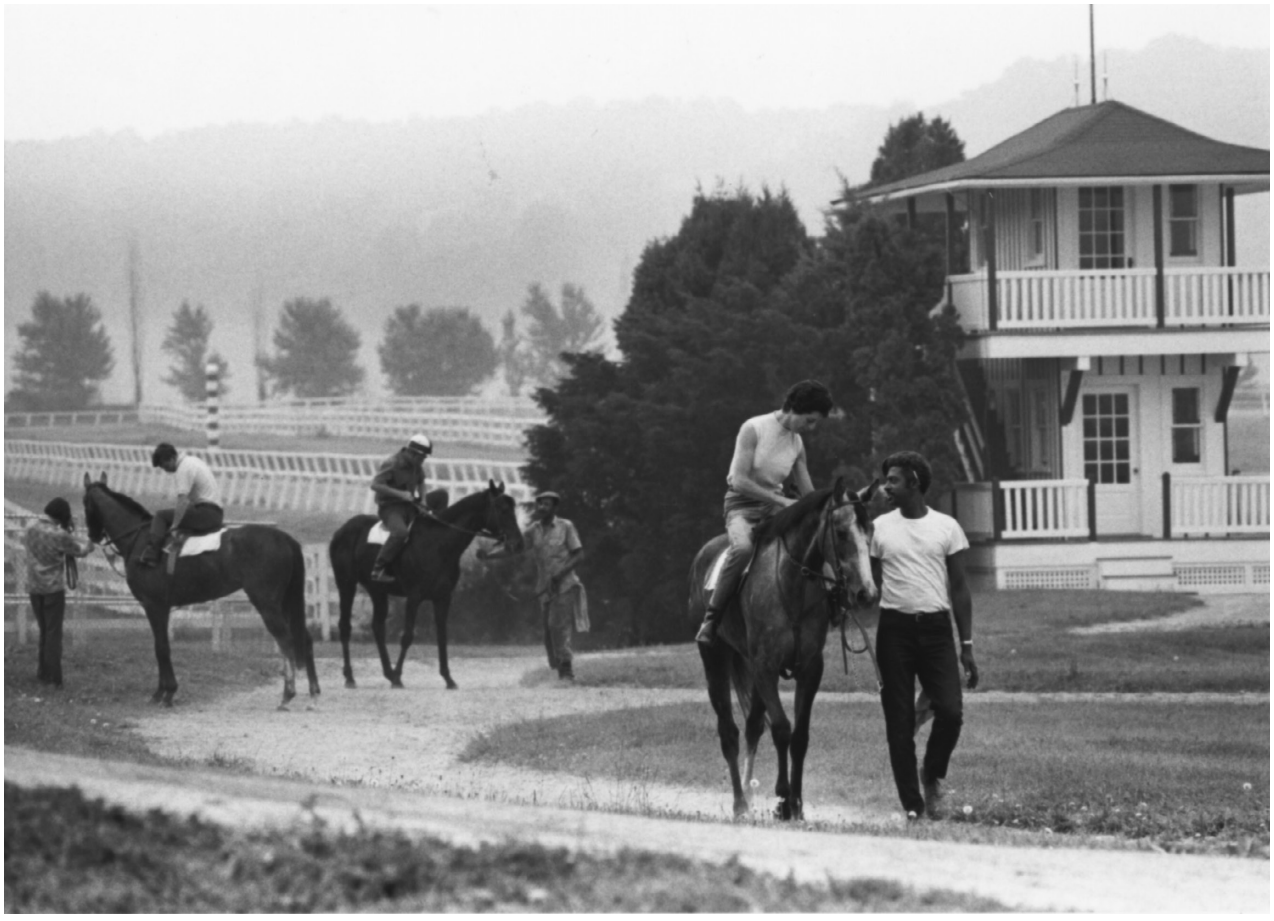
RICK BUCKLEY

10 years ago

■ California Chrome and his California contingent took Baltimore by storm after scoring in the Kentucky Derby. The bright chestnut sporting four white feet, a wide blaze, and Maryland connections, dazzled in the Preakness. Trained by Art Sherman for owners/breeders Steve Coburn and Perry Martin, the colt drew more than 100,000 fans to Belmont Park three weeks later as expectations rose for the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978. He faded to fourth (in a dead heat with Wicked Strong). The winner, Tonalist, skipped the Derby and Preakness. Bred in Kentucky by Lauren and Rene Woolcott and raised at their Woodslane Farm in The Plains, Va., Tonalist was owned by Robert "Shel" Evans, owner of Courtland Farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore and son of longtime successful Virginia owner/breeder Thomas Mellon Evans (of Buckland Farm). After purchasing Tonalist as a yearling, Evans sent Tonalist to Courtland for 60 days before he went into training, eventually to Christophe Clement.

■ Joe Clancy spent time with Northview Stallion Station's elder statesman Not For Love, Maryland's Stallion of the Year 11 times and dam sire of California Chrome. The 24-year-old was admired in the region and beyond. "He'd have been a good sire in Kentucky, at Claiborne or anywhere else," said Bill Landes, general manager of Hermitage Farm in Goshen, Ky., and a longtime shareholder of the son of Mr. Prospector. "There's a depth there and it's stood the test of time. He was a slightly above average racehorse, but he's been a remarkable sire."

■ Ben's Cat won the off-the-turf Jim McKay Sprint on the Preakness Day card a third time. King T. Leatherbury's 8-year-old homebred won his 26th race, and 21st stakes.



Stately Sagamore

Thoroughbreds headed every which way during a 1971 morning at Sagamore Farm. Ninety horses, 12 owned by Sagamore, were training at the Glyndon, Md., farm as part of a new business direction for owner Alfred Vanderbilt and trainer Frank Alexander that summer.

Peter Winants was on staff at *The Maryland Horse* during the 1960s, writing and taking photographs for the magazine before heading to Virginia where he headed up *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine and later the National Sporting Library. Before his death in 2009, he gifted his prints on file at the MHBA, which have become part of the Maryland Horse Library as The Winants Collection.

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